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Supplement

Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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IRAN:

Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

29 Jun

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies of the cities of Gorgan, Mashhad, Behshahr, Maragheh, and 'Ajabshir made speeches as preagenda speakers. Then the speaker of the Majles announced the headings of the Second Plan, and the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

After the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers ended, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri made a speech. Addressing the deputies of the Combining Committee and the expert committees in connection with the procedure to examine the Second Plan, with consideration for the directives of the grand leader and the policies in the letter that His Honor sent to the president, he announced some points as follows.

1) Observing social justice in the better distribution of public resources, collection of taxes on the basis of income, serious and legal support for the oppressed strata of the society in the areas related to the services of the government and the Judicial Branch, more attention and aid to the oppressed regions and villages, making appropriate decisions to prevent anything that results in windfall income.

2) Strengthening and preferring the revolutionary values in offering financial resources; expansion of domestic production, especially in the area of agriculture, providing the essential needs of the society, and reducing unnecessary consumer goods; expediting and reforming the administrative and judicial system in a way that can implement the plan towards its goals; necessary effort for the social sectors and development in the plan, such as general and judicial security, culture, general education, health and treatment, higher education and research, protection of the environment, and physical education; directing all the executive and propaganda activities towards the growth of spirituality and moral virtue in the society; observing priorities and fundamental and nonfundamental investments with the goal of completing the production chain for domestic use and exports; making the country independent of other countries in major consumer goods and basic needs; serious attention to the participation of the public in the construction of the country; making the necessary decisions to properly and continuously oversee the implementation of the plan; strengthening the defense capability of the country at the needed level; observing some points in the monetary and banking policies, such as the gradual elimination of foreign debt; necessary decisions to revitalize the tradition of interest-free loans in the total banking system of the country; facilitating the receiving of credit for those who work and have intellectual and technical capabilities; making the necessary decisions not to engage the country in foreign debt, and efforts to gradually become released from the present obligations; and observing the foreign policy principles announced in the Islamic Republic. These were the headings of the policies mentioned by the grand leader.

The speaker of the Majles continued: It seems that in examining the plan, the brothers should pay particular attention, and we should actively participate, so that, God willing, in this area, too, the Majles will come out proudly and implement the opinions of the guardian well. Concerning the foreign exchange policies, for instance, in relation to the foreign currency rate, we should take the necessary care with regard to the plan. Foreign obligations, foreign currency revenues, and nonoil exports. The balance of foreign payments, the mutual purchases that we have, the late payments, annual installments that would not cause problems for us, how we should devise the due dates of the debts so that in one year the due amount of payments will not be the size of the total national budget, devising payments in such a way that they are at an acceptable and tolerable percentage, all must be taken into consideration.

Nateq-Nuri also said: In connection with the increase in cash flow, to which fortunately the Majles paid close attention in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget, and the volume of cash flow and banking facilities in connection with preferred rates, if after all it is decided that we will give subsidies to the agricultural sector, the oppressed regions must be specified and regulated.

He continued: In regards to the budget deficit, the issuance of loan papers, whether or not we should have them and how; in connection with nongovernment financial establishments; in connection with taxes and tax justice, which was mentioned by the grand leader, we must decide that if a change is necessary, it should be come about in the tax system. The issue of privatization; the method of implementing it and the laws involved in doing so; fighting monopolies with regard to preventing misuses and windfall profits, which the grand leader pointed out as some people in a short period of time in this country suddenly gaining huge wealth and windfall profits, what should be done about them? The same system of evaluation which he [Khamene'i] mentioned at the end of his policy statement, that we will perhaps need to ratify a program and allocate a budget. But what percentage must be implemented in the course of these five years? In the course of these five years, we must have supervision and evaluation.

The speaker of the Majles also said: Sometimes, some numbers and figures in implementation may cause us to leave the power to maneuver for us that can be changed for years. [sentence as published]

In regards to how to implement the projects, he said: Of course, Ayatollah Khamene'i said that attention must be

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paid to fundamental and nonfundamental work, and we must pay attention to the oppressed regions and job-generating work in order to reduce the rate of unemployment. In our foreign policy, we must make clear what our relationship should be with regard to foreign countries and the region, and finally on the international level. In our internal security, the issue of the law enforcement forces, the agents of the Judicial Branch, and the Judicial Branch itself must be looked into. We must pay attention to the issue of our health and treatment. We must pay attention to education, higher education, and research. In the Second Plan, we must clarify the situation of subsidies. In energy and essential goods, preventing confusion regarding prices and uncontrolled fluctuations must be taken into consideration. In any case, you deputies, with the time that you have spent and given the fact that you have approved it, you must be actively present in the committees so that we are all involved in the plan and at the appointed time announce the plan to the government for implementation.

Seyyed Mohammad Hasan 'Alavi, Deputy From Gorgan

The first preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was 'Alavi from Gorgan, who condemned the recent crime of the hypocrites in bombing the shrine of Imam Reza and said: Why have those who claim to support human rights kept silent in regard to this historical crime? What will be the answer of those governments that in some way support these mercenary terrorists in the face of the bodies of the innocent people and small children which have been torn to shreds?

He added: The global oppressors must know that our Islamic revolution is inspired by divine and Islamic values and has risen from the school of monotheism and the imamate, and this inspiration will continue until all the Islamic goals and the revitalization of all lofty divine values have been achieved.

Pointing out that the element of martyrdom can be considered the essence and the main basis of the roaring Islamic movement, the speaker added: The dates of 7 Tir [28 June], 8 Shahrivar [30 August], and noon of the 'Ashura of Mashhad are not single days, but the history of a nation, a history that is the repetition of Karbala and 'Ashura.

'Alavi-Hoseyni continued: As a deputy of our martyr-nurturing people in the region of Gorgan and the Sunni brothers who are always ready on the scene in the region of Aqqola, I offer my congratulations and condolences for this great tragedy to the beloved mourning leader and the suffering families and request of the related officials and the nation of Hezbollah to take serious steps to identify and arrest the perpetrators of the tragedy of the divine shrine and punish the criminals as soon as possible.

He then thanked the head of the Judicial Branch, the minister and deputy minister of justice, and the faithful and committed judges of the judicial organization for their service and hard work on the occasion of Judicial Branch Week.

The speaker also thanked the law enforcement forces of Greater Tehran and his constituency for holding the best possible mourning ceremonies for Hoseyn and said: I am grateful to the Voice and Vision for not broadcasting the World Cup Soccer Games out of respect for the 'Ashura of Hoseyn and hope that, as the director of the Voice and Vision has said earlier, it will be a university for the education of our society and will follow the directives of the late imam and the grand leader.

Then referring to the prohibition on the use of government vehicles during off-duty hours, 'Alavi-Hoseyn added: Evidently, some ministries, organizations, and institutions pay no attention to the prohibition on and religious violation in the use of government vehicles. Worse and more unfortunate is that some individuals, with flagrant disregard for the insignia of the vehicle, do not observe Islamic veiling in their families.

The deputy of Gorgan continued: On the 'Ashura of Hoseyn I witnessed myself on Sattar Khan Street a car of one of the institutions in which two improperly veiled women with makeup were very offensively sitting in the car, and all the people were watching them. People in other cars were shocked, looking at the insignia, the insignia of a sacred institution. I was so angered and shocked myself that I stopped in front of it two or three times. I saw that the women pulled down their scarves a bit. I regret that I did not take down the license plate number.

In conclusion, he asked the government and the law enforcement forces to deal seriously with such violators.

Gholamreza Ansari, Deputy From Mashhad

Ansari from Mashhad was another preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday, who offered his condolences on the martyrdom of the pilgrims of the shrine of Imam Reza and said: Where are you, those who shout in support of American human rights? Where are the mercenary throats in the parliaments of Europe and the United States who always beat their unclean chests in defense of the smugglers and criminals of the age against the Islamic revolution?

Where is freedom and love of freedom? How will historians record this tragedy on the pages of contemporary history? As a disgrace to contemporary humanity.

He continued: How does France, which considers itself the heir of the great revolution, justify harboring the infamous leaders of the criminal hypocrite minigroup? The regime of Iraq, which under the worst conditions of economic embargo has the most hope of help from the Iranian people, how can it speak of expanding and normalizing relations?

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Then, warning the officials of the country, the deputy from Mashhad stated that the slightest negligence will result in crimes by these bloodthirsty fiends, he referred to the advantage of the Second Five-Year Plan and said: Economic and social planning in today's world is impossible without the use of theoretical models, and before any action, it is necessary to specify the theories governing the planning for the people and officials of the society and clearly draw the development strategies, to which unfortunately no attention is paid in the First and Second Plans.

He added: The theories of a large, traditional economy—as in the period of economic growth in the West, which is the result of experience and many mistakes—for numerous reasons cannot be used in our society under the present conditions.

Stating that any kind of mistake in choosing the strategy and planning of the society may cause irreparable material and human damage, Ansari pointed out: Now that the people and the officials of the regime are paying attention to the reconstruction of the economic and social structure of the country, in the phase of implementation too the use of committed experts is more inescapable than at any other time, and it is necessary that, prior to granting grave responsibilities to individuals, the honorable officials be sufficiently informed about their specialized capability in regards to the work conferred on them.

In continuation, he mentioned the need in rapid economic growth for attention to the social aspects of development and continued: It is certainly necessary in economic and social planning for attention to be paid to general welfare, a main requirement of which is just distribution of income, wealth, and resources through social welfare programs.

He added: An increase in the level of income for the poor raises the demand for necessary goods that are produced domestically, whereas the increase in the income of the wealthy increases the demand for imported luxury items. Increased demand for local goods creates greater motivation for domestic products, local employment, and productive investments.

The deputy from Mashhad mentioned the increase in the rate of population growth and the problems of unemployment and inflation in the country and said: Considering that the problem of unemployment can be the source of other economic, social, and cultural problems, it is necessary for those involved to turn to specialists and experts in these affairs to make the necessary preparations to solve the problems.

He then added: An imbalance between the educational system and the economic and social structure is one of the main problems of the country. On the one hand, the society needs committed specialists and, on the other hand, the university educated join the mass of unemployed in the society. In this area, it is necessary for the educational system to engage in teaching and training individuals in accordance with the needs of the society. Can the Ministry of Higher Education explain the need it has for graduates in various educational groups in the Second Plan, considering the exciting work conditions in the society? According to him, the formation of active political parties that believe in the regime is necessary in the society to ensure the political and social participation of the people.

Mohammad Hasan Jamshidi, Deputy From Behshahr

The next speaker was Mr. Jamshidi from Behshahr, who offered his condolences concerning the tragedy of the bombing in the shrine of Imam Reza by the hypocrites and said: Oh God, You witness how this nation suffered at the hands of the black-hearted enemies, that is, the criminal United States, and its mercenaries and what valuable jewels these monsters took from this nation. Oh God, in which court but Your court of justice can these traitors of the nation and humanity and these mean murders be tried? But in the fire of your hell, where can they be punished?

He continued: By the blessing of this blood, nations wake up, our revolution was introduced to the world, and the line of the imam was stabilized. According to the grand leader, 28 June enabled the line of the imams to prove its rule in the great revolution.

He added: Today, we witness in the world that the regime of the Islamic Republic has displayed its power of construction and development and by relying on itself makes decisions and has something to say everywhere. Because it carries the word of truth and logic, it speaks clearly and truthfully.

The speaker continued:

Thank God, blessed by guardianship and the blood of the valuable martyrs, not only are we able to run our own country and solve its problems, but we can also solve the problems of other countries. We know that other countries do not have this ability and have problems, especially the Islamic countries. Because we are capable, our arms are open to solve the problems of others, if they ask us. And today, thank God, we are eliminating many of the complex problems of the countries in the region.

The speaker added: The countries in the region must abandon the United States, this plague, because the United States is a traitor and cannot cure their pain, since it is itself an incurable disease.

Referring to the condition of observing justice, he said: One province should not have both a full stomach and full hands while another province is overlooked and ignorant. Of course, the deputy brothers are committed, just, and careful and the beloved ministers are also just. The deputy from Behshahr continued: We had more than 14 million travelers to Mazandaran Province, who must travel from Sari to Gorgan on the same road. God knows what tragic accidents we have witnessed. Hence,

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the spirit of justice of the government and the Majles requires that attention be paid to this issue. Jamshidi said in this connection: I request that the honorable officials expand the Sari-Gorgan road to four lanes.

He added: The Behshahr, Neka, and Gelugah Plain is more than 130,000 hectares [ha], of which due to lack of water only 22,750 ha is under rice cultivation. If water is provided, 70,000 ha can be cultivated. Because the underground water table is salty, every year several wells become salty and unusable. Considering the shortage of water and the instructions of the president in regards to the Gelvard dam, which is one of four potential dams in the country and for which the preliminary studies have been made, I ask the Majles and the Ministry of Energy to give priority to this dam in the Second Plan and save the oppressed farmers from the danger of being without water.

The deputy of Behshahr also said: Amirabad Port in terms of potential is most suitable for a free port. Some of the work begun a long time ago and is about to be completed. Unfortunately, funds have not been designated for it in 1373. I request that the officials allocate these funds. In conclusion, the speaker requested the development of the Neka' Cement Factory and asked the government to have careful supervision over the price labeling of goods.

Seyyed Mostafa Seyyed Hashemi, Deputy From Maragheh

The last preagenda speaker was Seyyed Hashemi from Maragheh, who condemned the desperate action of the hypocrites in the crime of 'Ashura in Mashhad and said: Today, the oppressors by accepting the political reality of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has come to be through the presence of the great strata of the nation and decisive leadership, wish to confront the country in the economic and cultural systems. Today's battle is a great battle, one which has brought most of the revolutions in the world to their knees, and we must take this important issue into consideration in our criticism.

He added: We believe that in the economic planning system, all the oppressed people must be considered, so as to impose a great defeat on the oppressors by preventing the discontent of the oppressed people. We know that colonialists in the course of history have resorted to various ways to plunder the Muslims in order to drain the religion from within. One of these ways is to bring innovations into the beliefs of Shiism and the school of Shiite martyrdom, in order to be able to put the revolutionary Shiite people into a deep sleep in hopes of being able to better rob them. Pointing out that the statements of the grand leader in negating self-laceration penetrated the hearts of the mourners, he said: The alert people of 'Ajabshir in this year's mourning followed the directives of his honor in an orderly and disciplined way with spirituality that was truly unprecedented.

In another part of his speech, the speaker said: By honoring Judicial Branch Week and offering congratulations and condolences to the families of the martyrs of 28 June, I thank the judges and the employees of the Justice Department and the Revolution Court of Maragheh, who were able to examine more than 20,000 judicial cases by reducing the time of examination, and ask the minister of justice to establish as soon as possible the Independent Legal Court of 'Ajabshir.

He asked the president about the examination of the financial problems of Payam-e Nur University and traveling to Maragheh.

Ratifications

Election of 2 Majles Deputies as Members in the Committee for Overseeing the [Activities of Groups and] Parties

The first item on the agenda discussed in the open session of the Majles yesterday was the election of two persons for membership in the Committee for Overseeing the Activities of Groups and Parties in implementing Article 10 of the law of the activities of parties and groups.

It is noteworthy that Article 10 states: In order to issue permits to applicants, supervise the activities of groups, and carry out the duties ratified in the law, a committee will be formed comprised of the representatives of the prosecutor, the Judicial Branch, and the Ministry of Interior and two deputies selected by the Majles from any volunteers inside or outside the Majles who are introduced by one of the deputies within a maximum of one week prior to the elections in writing to the Internal Committee. The date of the elections must also be announced at least 15 days by the speaker of the Majles. On this basis, 15 days ago, the speaker of the Majles made an announcement and Messrs. Movahhedi-Savoji, 'Ali Yusefpur, and Nurmohammad Rebusheh and Ms. Fatemeh Homayun-Moqaddam were presented to the Committee on Council Affairs. After the voting, Messrs. Movahhedi-Savoji and 'Ali Yusefpur were elected unanimously as the representatives of the Majles on the Article 10 Committee for the law on parties.

Rate of Service Fees for the Stopping of Cargo and Passenger Cars

The next item on the agenda was the bill to increase the service rates stated in Paragraph 10 of the law concerning the agreement regarding the transfer of the Mirjanveh-Zahedan railroad, which was ratified as follows.

Single Article. The service rate related to the fee for the stopping of cargo and passenger cars, the cost of maneuvering the cars, the cost of locomotives to pull the train, and the cost of emergency trains stated in Paragraph 10 of the law concerning the transfer of Mirjaveh-Zahedan railroad, ratified in 1338 [21 March 1959-20 March 1960], will be increased up to three times the present rate.

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Note. Any future increase regarding the prices stated in this law shall be upon the suggestion of the Ministry of Roads and Transport and the approval of the Cabinet.

Sale or Rental of Machinery of the Chabahar Port Projects

The next item on the agenda was the bill concerning the sale or rental of machinery and resources of the port projects in the Chabahar region and the collection of the funds for it from the Treasury, after depositing those funds in the general Treasury, which was ratified as follows.

Single Article. The Ministry of Roads and Transport (the three-member committee in charge of the construction of the ports of the Chabahar region stated in the legislative bill concerning the implementation of the joint projects of the Chabahar and Kenark fishing ports and the temporary port of Chabahar [Marina Company] and its amendment, ratified in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] by the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran) is granted permission to lease or sell the machinery and unusable and surplus resources of the project that it has at its disposal to implement the projects of the ports of the Chabahar region in accordance with the related laws and regulations and to deposit the obtained funds in the General Treasury. The equivalent of 100 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts from funds that will be included in the national budget law shall be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Roads and Transports (the three-member committee in charge of the implementation of the project) to be used for the above-mentioned projects on the basis of an agreement exchanged with the Plan and Budget Organization.

Note. All actions that take place for the implementation of the above-mentioned article must be suggested by the three-member committee in charge of the implementation of the project to build the ports of the Chabahar region and the approval of the minister of roads and transport.

Proposal on Supervision Over Foreign Travel

The next item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions of the Foreign Policy Committee regarding the proposal on supervision over foreign travel by government employees, of which three articles were ratified as follows, and the examination of the continuation of the agenda was postponed to next week.

According to Article 1. For supervision over the foreign travel and nonpermanent assignments of government employees and those of all organizations that in some way make use of the general national budget and government companies, a committee comprised of the following shall be established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

1) Deputy minister of foreign affairs
2) Deputy minister of information
3) Deputy director of the General Accounting Office of the country
4) Deputy minister of the related organization, without the right to vote
5) Two Majles deputies selected by the Majles

Note 1. Within a maximum of 15 days after the ratification of this law, the organizations specified in this article are responsible to take steps to present their representative.

Note 2. In the first session, the committee shall elect from among itself a chairman, and the sessions of the Committee shall be considered official with four members.

The ratifications of this committee shall be valid with three votes.

Note 3. The administrative office of this committee shall be located in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the deputy minister of foreign affairs shall be the secretary of this committee.

Note 4. The administrative office shall be responsible for arranging the holding of sessions, through prior announcement to the people and invitations to the members of the committee.

Article 2. The issuance of passports and tickets for officials and the payment of all travel expenses shall be with the permission of the above-mentioned committee.

Article 3. All organizations stated in this law are responsible to send requests for assignment and travel and their list of the names of individuals to the committee along with written explanations, regardless of whether the travel is upon the request of a foreign party or at the expense of the host or the related organization, at least one month earlier.

Note 1. Foreign travel and assignments of the heads of the three branches and their deputies; the ministers; the commanders of the ground, air, and naval forces of the military and the Guard Corps and the joint chiefs of these forces; as well as the head of the General Headquarters of the Defense Forces and the commander of the law enforcement forces are exempt from this law.

Note 2. Confidential assignments of the Ministry of Information shall be exempted from this law.

Note 3. In regards to the travels of Majles delegations, the Board of Directors of the Majles shall examine the necessity on a case-by-case basis and make decisions accordingly.

Also, in yesterday's session, the urgency of the proposal to change the boundaries of the cities of the province of Tehran, which was suggested by Mr. Qashqavi the deputy from Shahriar, was ratified by the Majles. Also in this session, the decision was made that after the end of

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the open session, elections would be held to select the international members of the Majles.

It is interesting that at the end of the open session yesterday the question of six deputies to the minister of post and telephone concerning deviations from the Majles ratifications in regards to postal tariffs was announced as having been received.

The next open session of the Majles shall be on the following Sunday.

1 Jul

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2 Jul 94 pp 6, 16

[Text] Economic Division. Some time ago, Dr. 'Adeli, the director general of the Central Bank, responded to the varied questions of those present at the Fourth Conference on Monetary and Foreign Exchange.

Issues such as the reasons behind the sale of $5,000 to customers by the banking network, postponed debts, the creation of nonbanking credit establishments, the fluctuations in the rate of foreign currency on the market, ways to create stability in the market, etc., were raised in the questions and answers.

It is noteworthy that the statements of the director general of the Central Bank came prior to the recent decisions of the Committee on Regulating the Foreign Currency Market and the granting of permission to create nonbanking credit establishments. Based on the new decisions of the Committee on Regulating the Foreign Currency Market and the granting of permission to create nonbanking credit establishments, and based on the new decisions of the Committee on Regulating the Foreign Currency Market, all imports will take place through the banking system.

Also, due to the fact that the text of the questions was not clear on the tape, only a summary of the responses is presented, which is confined to parts of these questions and answers.

The Central Bank Faces Restrictions in Making Decisions Concerning Foreign Exchange Policies

In our opinion, one of the effective factors that at the present time influences the foreign exchange market is demand for imported goods, and the demand for imports is influenced by the trade policies.

Trade policy decisions involving what goods should or should not be imported or how much should be imported are not made by the Central Bank. In evaluating the economic effects, in my opinion, especially in regards to issues that are related to the Central Bank, we must take several factors into consideration.

First, what are the restrictions imposed on our economy from outside? We must keep in mind and note that most of the time these restrictions and pressures that are imposed from outside are traumatic and must be dealt with. This issue does not involve government policy but the trauma that is imposed from outside. Another point involves dealing with the Central Bank itself. We must note that given the limitations of the Central Bank with regard to policy making, in theory we can very simply conclude with the question, what can be done about the fluctuations that exist at the present time in the market? This can be done. Well, why do we not do it? One can come to conclusions simply, but in practice, it is not so simple. For example, when I say that the effective factor in the rate of foreign currency is the import of goods, well, this demand for imported goods is not controlled by the bank itself, in order for it, for instance, to create restrictions through tariffs or any other method in regards to imports as soon as demand increases.

Sale of $5,000 to Every Customer

Capital is very sensitive to the foreign currency rate, and it does not make a difference whether the foreign currency comes from the bank or from inside the society. The foreign currency that is on the open market is also the foreign currency of the country; there is no difference. Do you think that, for example, if the rate of foreign currency changes, the people will not react to it in regards to buying or not buying it? Do you think that when we stopped allowing the sale of $5,000 on the market people stopped buying from the market? No, rather, people continued to buy from the market, at least those who were interested in saving foreign currency continued to do so. Hence, what motivates the people to purchase or not purchase foreign currency is not what motivates the sale of foreign currency in the bank.

I want you to look at the $5,000 sale as an economic phenomenon, whether or not the bank sells foreign currency. Perhaps in the opinion of those who are not very familiar with the economy, it may appear that if the bank is not selling foreign currency, no one must be buying foreign currency. But the desirable condition in our view is the free sale of foreign currency in the bank and on the open market and the stability of the rate. Certainly with the stability of the rate of foreign currency the tendency to change capital from the rial to the dollar will not occur. Hence, the sale of $5,000 [per customer] through the bank is not, in the view of an economist, considered the elimination of capital.

Use of Foreign Resources

If our revenues are trivial, even if we are the first producer of oil, we need to use foreign resources, because inside the country the amount of savings is still low considering our development. We have a shortage of capital, and the situation in many countries is such that they have more capital, and the resources of the banks in these countries are not provided by those countries, rather, they are international, especially banks in Austria, Spain, and Denmark, whose resources I believe are international. One of the characteristics of today's global economy is the combining of monetary and capital markets.

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Loopholes in the Export and Import Regulations

One of the causes of fluctuations in the foreign currency rate is the existence of loopholes in the export and import regulations. Through the import vis-a-vis export regulations and peddling, unnecessary goods are imported into the country, and the excited importer imports prohibited goods in this way and, without paying customs duties, sells them in the Tehran market and makes a significant profit. Of course, with the reforms that have been carried out in foreign trade policies, this problem has been resolved to a great extent.

Some time ago, an importer had imported soap from Australia and was stopped. He protested, asking why they had stopped him. Well, regulations did not allow for the import of soap. He returned continuously, and in the end he was not granted a release of goods. After losing hope in the Ministry of Commerce, he came to the Central Bank to see whether or not he could bypass the Ministry of Commerce. Of course, that was not possible and he left. After six or seven months, when he had come back for another transaction, he said that the soap was imported. When asked how, he said through peddling.

At the present time, in regards to our export and import regulations, there is a main current of imports in the country that is subject to the general regulations. And then we have regulations on peddling, which are in fact loopholes for the import of goods. In the past, that is, five years ago, the situation regarding regulating was much worse. At the present, these policies have improved, and we hope that with the special attention of the Ministry of Commerce at the present to the issue of imports and exports, this situation will improve. Essentially, we cannot ignore the relationship between the foreign currency rate, the foreign exchange policy, and the commerce system of the country. During the past two months when the foreign currency rate increased somewhat, the analysis of the Committee on Regulating the Foreign Currency Market was that we have regulations for exports and imports in the country which allow imports vis-a-vis exports. In other words, a person who wants to import can ask to buy foreign currency from an exporter and import goods.

The Committee on Regulating the Foreign Exchange Market reached the conclusion that the number of those who buy foreign currency from the market is large, and in order to bring them from the market to the Central Bank, they said that foreign currency must be injected into the open market. Well, we injected more foreign currency into the open market. This was effective to some extent. After a while, some said that it is not clear to whom this foreign currency was injected by the Central Bank and it is not clear who is buying it. It is possible that some people who are converting their wealth and capital are buying it and smuggling imports and that we should give it to those who have permits for imports vis-a-vis exports.

As a result, the committee approved the Central Bank doing this. In fact, the sale of foreign currency for imports vis-a-vis exports is a sort of injection by the Central Bank. In other words, we do not take this issue as a new action or a new rate by the bank. Rather, we say it is a kind of injection into the market, in the way that we made a general injection before, but it is not general. The trend that the Central Bank projects is that in the long term, it will have the desired effect.

Factors in the Stability of the Foreign Currency Rate

In the Central Bank, a personal policy exists for stabilizing the foreign currency rate. In other words, we have comprehensive programs studied by experts as to the order of steps we must follow to reach relative stability.

The first point is that we must accept that the foreign currency rate is dependent on the foreign currency deficit that exists in the country, and if we want to act freely, as is practiced on a wide scale in Turkey, neither do we prescribe this sort of system, nor does anyone support it. One theory is that we should control everything; that is, all the revenues should be rationed among everyone. We should control the prices and not pay attention to what the open market does. Another theory states that it is not necessary for us to follow the premise of price control or this style of control. We must control our imports, and in doing this everything else will be controlled automatically. The Central Bank first put controls over imports as its primary policy, and the fact that imports must be carried out exclusively through the banking system. In other words, there should no official imports through nonbanking channels.

Second, we must have a suitable and disciplined credit policy rather than for every government company to receive any amount of credit it wants simply and by resorting to sharp political leverages. This issue is contrary to the independence of the Central Bank.

The third point is the financial expenditures of the government. In other words, until the budget of the government realizes the actual foreign currency shortcomings in itself, it will not be possible to control the foreign currency rate, and this issue is essentially taken into consideration in the complete and comprehensive programs of governments. The fourth policy of the Central Bank is to make the expected banking interest rate more logical.

Correcting the Interest Rate on Deposits

We believe that based on Islamic banking principles the profit gained from the investment made by the borrower must be given to the depositor. Essentially, the most important point and advantage that Islamic banking has over usury banking is for us to be able to give the profit that we receive from the borrower to the depositor. The opponents of an increased interest rate on deposits say, someone takes money from us, engages in construction, and makes a profit of 100 percent, but due to inflation, he requests that he be made exempt from paying interest. I still have not understood this. Of course, I am not the

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only one; experts who have studied the issue of correcting the interest rate on deposits have not understood it and have said that we must correct the expected interest rate cautiously.

In order to solve the administrative problem and the problem of banks, we are obliged to do this, and by doing this, we will reduce the tendency to convert wealth and capital in the bank and the market.

Until Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] last year, the annual fluctuation in the foreign currency rate was something around 6-8 percent, which was comparable to the banking interest rate. Another effective issue for bringing order to the present situation of the market is to deal more seriously with smuggling. The decision that has been made recently will certainly help the stability of the open market, since after all it is an injection and if the next steps are taken, they will be more helpful.

Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate

The requirement for the creation of a single foreign currency rate was to have a single foreign currency market. In order to create this market, all the transactions that were allowed on the official, bank foreign currency market were taking place on the unofficial market, and both should have a connecting bridge to create a single foreign currency rate. Of course, there were various discussions in regards to whether or not at the same time capital accounts must be free. In other words, should a person who wants to put rials in the bank and convert them be allowed to do so? This was done on the unofficial market, but not at a high rate. In order not to do this in the official market—because this cannot not take place when the rate is different—the opening of capital accounts is usually a policy that does not start from the beginning. It starts in the middle of the task, or alongside it, out of caution about creating problems with regard to the imbalance of payments in the country. For this reason, simultaneous with the relative and very cautious opening of capital accounts, we should take a basic step toward controlling demand in another area. But what was the meaning of announcing imports without the transfer of foreign currency? We did it to find out who the customers of the market were and finally how many kinds of customers we had in the open market or the banking market. [The customers] are still the same.

Major Customers of the Foreign Currency Market

1. Official or unofficial importers of goods and so-called smugglers, who have comprised, still comprise, and will continue to comprise the major customers of the foreign currency market, and the greatest demand is by the importers of various kinds of goods.

2. Customers of services, such as passengers, patients, students, or those who go abroad to get rid of their problems and take $5,000 or $10,000 for their needs, who are always small customers, and their total volume of demand in the course of a year is not significant enough for us to allocate them a high amount.

3. A small number of applicants who have rial capital and intend to convert it. The major customers are the same importers of goods, who comprise two groups. First is the group who eliminated their needs through the banking system and in a specific controlled system. The second group is comprised of those who procure foreign currency freely from the open market to import goods. The opening of a conservative capital account of $5,000 in the beginning of last year under the condition of full restrictions on foreign currency from the unofficial market was designed to allow anyone who wants to import goods to do so through the banking system. Of course, in the first and second weeks, when everyone wanted to know whether or not there is foreign currency, the banks became crowded. But in the following weeks, business went on as usual. But the basic condition of this policy, which was prohibition of imports without the transfer of foreign currency, was immediately removed and imports without foreign currency became free.

In the first step, the government restricted imports without transferring foreign currency to a series of items, and the market calmed down somewhat. But the rate of foreign currency increased once again. Subsequently, the government restricted all imports without the transfer of foreign currency and did this in the form of drafts. We can conclude that the creation of a single rate foreign currency, as designed, was quite successful in the first six months of the year, and there were no problems. But with no control over imports, demand for foreign currency increased, and the foreign currency rate increased.

Some believe that the foreign currency rate must be used as a tool to limit demand for goods and foreign currency expenditures. With the increase in the rate of foreign currency, imports will decrease, because it will cost the importer more, demand will decrease for foreign goods, and subsequently demand for foreign currency will also decrease. This will improve the balance of payments, and demand for domestic goods will increase.

It is noteworthy that many domestic industrialists and producers have benefitted from the creation of a single foreign currency rate, because previously no one wanted their manufactured goods, but today a person who wants to build a factory would not find it cost effective to import all the machinery and will have to turn to domestic producers. On the whole, the single foreign currency rate has served the domestic industries in a way that no other policy has during this period. Other additional points: First, it will take some time to see an effect on the balance of payments and demand. The second point is that the foreign currency rate must be increased artificially with regard to raw materials even more than is necessary in order to make up for the deficit, and this will cause the price to stick. Considering that the increase in the foreign currency rate will cause a decrease in imports, the excessive increase will have negative

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effects in other sectors. Hence, in the short term, in order to improve the balance of payments, in addition to cautiously using the leverage of changing the foreign currency rate, the leverage of foreign trade must also be used.

To Stabilize the Foreign Currency Rate, Imports Must Be Controlled

To control the foreign currency rate, if the goal is to stabilize the foreign currency rate as a national and primary goal, then other factors must be used as tools to achieve this goal. We must not stop the buyer from buying foreign currency. Rather, imports must be controlled through economic tools. Another point is that since this is done rapidly, there would be no need for an uncontrolled increase in the foreign currency rate, and it will not affect the general level of prices either.

Rush of Government Units To Buy Foreign Currency From the Market

Last year, the protest was made that the Central Bank does not place the cash flow at the disposal of factories. It is interesting that, considering the rush of government units to the foreign currency market, we should always believe what we see. Those who complain that we do not allow them a cash flow are the same ones who come to the market with 5 billion rials [R], R10 billion, R30 billion, and R50 billion, and they all pay in cash checks and on that day.

The First Five-Year Plan Was Successful

The First Five-Year Plan ended successfully. After five years, all the indicators were positive and correct. Of course, this does not mean that all work was completed with 100-percent success. That is beyond a doubt. But five years ago, no one predicted that an oil upset would be inflicted at the end of 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] on all the oil-producing countries. And it was not necessary, if no one predicted it, for us to be cautious for no reason. Many ask, Why are you in debt? Those who lose heart and despair when they hear of a $9-billion debt do not understand the greatness and production capability of our country. They have not studied the economic statistics and figures of these past several years. During these five years, we spend $100 billion from the government revenues, of which $9 billion is debt for which the foreign credit funds were used and have not come due. The debt of our country up to the year 2006 will be $18 billion. As an official of the Islamic Republic, I announce, in order for everyone's mind to be at ease, that the country is not bankrupt. We have $60 billion in debts. Some university friends refer to $60 billion, $70 billion, and $40 billion. Of course, the reason [for the discrepancy] is that we have not presented clear numbers and figures. We have $18 billion in debts which have not matured yet and concern next year. Some of the obligations concern large investments that have not yet reached operation, such as the power plant project and industrialized farming, which require a long time to reach operation. There is no problem with these. And the reason for the amount that has been due is that the country was confronted by an oil company.

Debt Is a Two-Sided Coin

Another point concerning the debt is its ratio to the gross domestic product of the country. This ratio in developing countries is 32 percent and in oil-producing developing countries, this ratio is 42 percent. The reason for the high level of this ratio in the oil-producing countries is that debt is a two-sided coin. One side of the coin is debt, and the other side credit. In other words, if you do not have credit, they will not sell you goods, they will not give you loans. Not everyone can get a loan. For this reason the net ratio of foreign debt to the gross domestic product in oil-producing developing countries is 42 percent. In other words, 42 percent of the gross domestic production of these countries is debt, because the lenders give us more credit to grant us loans. This ratio in our country is 21 percent, which shows a very cautious trend. Some of those who are before us say, You should use the change in the foreign currency rate as a solution to the deficit in the balance of payment in the short run. Some say, Only use the lever of cash flow. And still others say, Use the lever of decreased government expenditures. All are correct. All of these must be done. The cash flow must be controlled; attention must be paid to the financial policies; and government expenditures controlled. In addition, the changes in the foreign currency rate must be taken advantage of to modify the balance of payments.

Establishment of Nonbanking Credit Establishments

There are about 15 public customers, such as the Foundation for the Oppressed, the Shahid Foundation, the Guard Corps, the Free University, and some of the ministries, and about 60 customers from the private sector. On the whole, about 80 customers have come to establish nonbanking credit. The minimum capital is R5 billion. Of course, in this area, there should be no haste in responding positively to every applicant.

Germany and the United States Owe Us

Also, in the area of foreign debts, it must be said that when two countries have trade relations for years at a level that, for instance, more than 20 percent of the imports or about 25 percent of the imports of one are provided by the other, they are no longer buyers and sellers but trade partners.

Out of $107 billion in purchases that we have made, 25 percent have been foreign trade with Germany, of which $2.7 billion we could not pay on time. Of course, as the person responsible for the banking system, I assure all the creditors that we shall pay all our debts.

Also, at the present time, we are owed billions of dollars, of which $12 billion is in the United States. We are also owed $2 billion by Germany concerning the Bushehr

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Power Plant. Also, agreements have been made in regards to a time schedule. Germany has been the first recipient of the debt and Japan the second country.

There Is No Specific Definition of Modification

In regards to the modification policies, because we do not have a specific definition, everyone interprets it differently. But a specific definition of the policy of modification that can be offered is that the policies and steps somehow must effect the total supply and total demand and correct the economic relations from deviations and discrepancies. For example, five years ago the budget deficit was very high. The decision was made bring this deficit to zero, and this is one of the modification policies. Also, five years ago we had 12 foreign currency rates, which were all irrational. The decision to reduce the rates is one of the modification policies. Of course, modification policies are used for the purpose of creating stability in the economy.

It is necessary to carry out economic reform in the country in order to have a stable economy. In the past five years, we have implemented several policies simultaneously.

Reforms and reconstruction development were carried out in the country. Some have recently begun general discussion about whether or not modification is good and have spoken of Brazil and Turkey as examples. However, we must not essentially discuss and follow the model of Brazil, Turkey, and other countries. We must look at the special cultural and social characteristics of our own country and plan accordingly. Also, it must be noted that economic security is a political matter, and the behavior of the investor, consumer, and producer are related to the political views of the country. In the past, we have faced a conspicuous military war. The present war is more complex, even obscure.

3 Jul

94LA0211A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
4 Jul 94 pp 5, 15

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding in which the deputies of Tehran, Ferdows, and Tabas, Rasht, and Sari spoke as preagenda speakers. The Majles then went into session.

We call to your attention the details of the discussion.

Habibollah 'Askar-Owladi, Deputy From Tehran

The first preagenda speaker was 'Askar-Owladi the deputy from Tehran, who referred to the crime of the United States in downing the passenger plane and in regards to the Second Plan said: The Majles faces a great test. [sentence as published] This Majles has begun the examination of the Second Five-Year Plan in a rare and unprecedented manner. Thank God the Combining Committee is in the best position to put it in order and the work on the examination of the plan has begun. In my opinion, the Second Five-Year Plan provided very good groundwork, and the government and the president have done a good job in connection with providing the grounds for the Second Plan.

He added: The tone that of grand leader in the Second Five-Year Plan in terms of macropolicies is a very appropriate tone. The emphasis on social justice that has been presented by the grand leader will guide and direct us all to better carry out our duty with regard to the social welfare pursued in the plan, God willing.

Stating that in the Fourth Majles we have the experience of the First Plan, he said: Our nation will be testing us more precisely than before, and we must be more careful and more accurate than the Third Majles.

The deputy from Tehran asked the seminaries, the universities, the press, and all the media, researchers, and thinkers to feel responsible in regards to this important issue and to offer their criticism and views to the Majles and the Combining Committee so that this plan is organized in an appropriate manner through the efforts of everyone.

He explained: The criticism, views, suggestions, and reminders must be more calculated and constructive and offer solutions. We must avoid criticism or suggestions that raise public expectations. We must note that for our statements to create expectations in the society that the government cannot fulfil would be in violation of the purpose of planning and the directives of the plan. We must offer our criticism and suggestions in a more calculated fashion than in the past.

'Askar-Owladi in continuation explained: Because the efforts of the president and the government have been carried out mainly in the areas of fundamental reconstruction and construction, still we have not tasted the sweet fruit of the government activities, and for this reason, propaganda about the Second Five-Year Plan must be accompanied by the national will to work hard, be content, and be present on the scenes in order for us to have a movement that is worthy of the Fourth Majles in the examination of the plan and be deserving of God's blessing.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, Deputy From Rasht

The next speaker was Nowbakht from Rasht, who in a brief speech in connection with the advancement of the Caspian Sea water said: Due to the climatic conditions in the northern part of the country, in the course of the past four days there has been more than 120 mm of rain in Gilan. The advancement of sea water on the one hand and the inability of the rivers to draw water because they have not been dredged have caused more than 8,000 hectares of farm land to be flooded and inflict at least 4 billion rials [R] in damage on the villagers.

He added: This is while last year as a result of untimely precipitation and all sorts of pests, especially worms that

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Has the time not come for a qualified committee to take responsibility for the scientific content of so-called scientific and medical conferences and seminars that often lack content? Often in the span of one month, two or three similar conferences on the same subject are held, and only the organizers enjoy the false and improper privileges at great cost. Would it not be better for interesting scientific issues to be published in pamphlets and journals and made available to individuals?

The deputy of Tehran referred to lack of supervision and control over the medical services and treatment rates and said: In any possible way, the ministry is responsible to supervise and control and to investigate and prevent confusion with regard to the existing rates, especially in the private sector. Another critical issue today is the issue of laboratories and radiology procedures. Due to the rise in price of laboratory equipment and radiological films, prices have doubled. In order to relieve pressure on people, it is necessary to give all possible subsidies to these sectors to purchase needed equipment.

Under these economic conditions, what is the need for every institute, organization, and even hospital to try to purchase costly medical equipment such as CT scans? Such equipment is not found in this form in many European cities.

In conclusion, she mentioned the employment of some officials in several jobs and said: How can an official be capable of several very heavy responsibilities in the course of the limited hours of one day? Is every position not a commitment to the nation and God? In the Islamic Republic, where those eager to serve are plentiful, why should we narrow-mindedly limit ourselves to a small number of people?

'Ezzatollah Damadi, Deputy From Sari

The last preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Damadi from Sari, who spoke in connection with the weaknesses and strengths of the First Plan and the examination of the Second Plan in the Majles committees and said: First, the government revenues must be looked at realistically so as to see the expenditures and obligations in the plan on the basis of revenues. Policymaking in coordination with various parts of the plan, support for production, replacing imports with exports, encouraging and providing security to actual investors, preventing unnecessary and useless imports, redirecting capital from the services sector to the production sector, and providing them with the necessary security in every regard are necessity.

He also said: The situation must be clarified with regard to government companies and institutions, which control more than 75 percent of the trade and production of the country, every day increase their services, and have more than 60 percent of the government budget in circulation, and we must find a basic solution for them. Justice in the distribution of the budget among the provinces of the country on the basis of capability and return of capital in the short term, a change in the tax system, stabilizing the actual price of foreign currency, seriously dealing with providing housing for low-income people, etc., and giving a central place to agriculture and the revitalization of the soil and prevention of the migration of villages can make our country independent.

He added: We cannot, considering the vast area of soil and suitable weather have our eyes to the foreign countries for clothing and food. The necessity of this issue requires essential investment in this sector.

In this connection, the speaker added: Despite the fact that the agricultural sector was not given its just due in the First Plan, this sector can be one of the points of strength in the plan. Increased production and exports of more than 14 percent can be mentioned as one of the set goals of this sector.

The deputy from Sari continued: The province of Mazandaran has not been given its just due in the share of funds because it is green. But if you spend R10 in the northern part of the country, you will have a double return in the same year, and it will have an effective role for the country. In Mazandaran, despite a suitable situation and being an agricultural pole, farmers still face a shortage of agricultural water one and one-half months every year, and this is at the same time as about 4 billion cubic meters of water is powered from the rivers into the area.

In this connection, he added: The result of this lack of attention by the planners of the country is that 15 years after the victory of the revolution, we still import butter, cheese, wheat, rice, and other agricultural products from foreign countries. We hope that in the Second Plan we will not suffer from such incorrect policies, to have more than $100 million in imports for cheese alone annually. In conclusion, the deputy from Sari thanked the developmental deputy of the Ministry of Jihad and the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone for the efforts in his constituent region.

Ratifications

Continuation of the Proposal on Supervision Over Foreign Travel

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the report of the Foreign Policy Committee concerning the proposal on supervision over foreign travel by government employees, of which the following articles were ratified by the deputies after supporting and opposing views.

1) Report on all the above-mentioned travels must reach the related committee of the Majles within a maximum of one month.

2) Members of the faculty of universities and higher education institutions who travel to present their papers in accredited international conferences approved by the

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Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education are exempted from the contents of this proposal.

3) The committee is responsible to announce within a maximum of 15 days the approval or rejection response to the related organization.

4) Travelers must be sufficiently important in regards to the assignment and carrying out the duties of the related organization.

5) Violators of this law on the ruling of the judicial courts are obliged to pay to the government Treasury at least double the amount of all expenditures resulting from travel.

Amendment of Regulations of Foreign Vehicles

The next item on the agenda was the amendment of the Housing and Urban Development and Roads and Transport Committee concerning the proposal on the regulations on foreign vehicles returned from the Council of Guardians, which was ratified as follows after supporting and opposing views.

The amendment of the committee with attention to the opinion of the Council of Guardians is as follows: For the above-mentioned vehicles in 1373, a maximum of R100 billion will be collected and deposited in the Treasury, 100 percent of which will be allocated and spent, and for the next years about that amount of ratified funds shall be collected and spent in accordance with the law.

Very Urgent Priority Level of the Amendment on the Passport Law

The next item on the agenda was the suggestion for a very urgent priority level of the bill to amend Articles 25 and 26 of the passport law ratified on 10 Esfand 1351 [1 March 1973] concerning the suggestion of a very urgent priority level. The representative of the government said: The existing passports were printed hastily without much planning. As a result, they lack the quality, validity, and special security to make them resistant to forgery. In 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], a report by the Ministry of Information was presented to the grand leader. At that time, his honor was the president. In connection with the problems of the existing passports, some opinions were given and the grand leader said that officials should prepare passports that can respond to our security, social, political, and global issues. Hence, a special committee was formed by the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Information and the executive deputy to the president. After a great deal of study, they reached the conclusion that the passports must change totally in terms of form, printing, paper, and quality in order to increase their security, make them less able to be forged, and make them acceptable in terms of the dignity of the regime and the international situation. Now these passports have been printed, and we want to change them from 1 Mehr [23 September], the second half of the new year. The law of passports is on the agenda of the government. All its articles have been revised and examined in the Government Bills Committee and are now on the agenda of the government and will be presented to the Majles after ratification. One of the amended articles of that time involves the validity of the passports. The shape of passports has been coordinated with the international system; they are valid for 10 years and are renewable in two five-year periods. We felt that if that comprehensive bill is placed on the agenda of the Majles, it will take about one year to be ratified, and in accordance with the present law we are obliged to change the passports in time and give them three-year stamps. After the ratification of the new law, again we must give them five-year stamps. This requires a lot of work and expense. Hence, we want the law to allow us to start the issuance of the new passports from now and give them five-year stamps, so that they will not have any problems after the ratification of the law.

After the views of the government representative and supporting and opposing views, the very urgent priority level of the proposal was put to a vote, but did not receive the required number of votes. Then it was put to a vote at an urgent priority level and ratified.

Very Urgent Priority Level for Determining the Customs Duties on Imported Goods

The last item on the agenda was the very urgent priority level of the government bill concerning the customs duties on imported goods on the basis of the coordinated system of distribution and coding of goods. After the speeches of the representatives of the government and supporting and opposing views, its very urgent priority level was not ratified.

It should be noted that the government representative in explanation had said: Considering the ratification of the Majles on joining the Coordinated System Convention and last year's single article in which customs duties were omitted and only on the basis of commercial fees was the government granted permission to offer the new bill by 15/04/1373 [6 July 1994]. Because we wanted to offer the coordinated system that is known as H.F. to the Majles on 27/02/1373 [17 May 1994], we were given this permission. If it is not ratified by 6 July 1994, we do not know on what basis we must once again establish commercial fees and customs duties that the Majles has omitted.

6 Jul

94LA0212A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from the cities of Esfarayen, Zanjan, Lanjan and Mobarakeh, and Kermanshah spoke as preagenda speakers. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct your attention to the detailed proceedings.

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In connection with the water sector that can create employment in the course of the plan, the speaker said: Most employment can be provided by the water sector. In the water sector alone in the course of the First Plan $780 million was spent, whereas $10 billion was spent in heavy industries. The Karun 3 contract that has been signed is a source of pride and only in this case we are witnessing a foreign currency expenditure savings of $350 million.

In conclusion, the speaker made reminders to the Plan and Budget Organization concerning funding for Tabas coal, to the Ministry of Industries concerning offering solutions to start the operations of the Ferdows textile factories, and to the Ministry of Energy in connection with providing drinking water to the cities of Ferdows and Sarayan.

Parvin Salihi, Deputy From Tehran

The next speaker was Ms. Salihi from Tehran, who referred to the repetition of 'Ashura of the year 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] AH in the country and said: Today, too, the hand of hypocrisy has created an 'Ashura. But it is these blind-hearted and ungodly hypocrites who displayed their Yazid-like selves and added another black page to their infamous and villainous history, and at noon on 'Ashura made allegiance with the followers of Yazid. But how proud is the memory of that Sire of the Martyrs, dear Beheshti, whose capable hands molded the judicial system of our country and were rapidly making progress to implement the perfect model of the judicial system of Islam in the 20th century.

Referring to the opening of the first judicial college by Martyr Beheshti, she said: Realizing the judicial problems of women, he took the first basic step to solve them, and through persistent effort he included several conditions in the marriage certificate that indicate the height of progress of the rights and Islamic laws for women. But one of our problems today is that sometimes misuse of Article 1130 of the civil law that grants men the right to divorce under any conditions is open, and unfortunately we witness that as soon as a man decides to divorce, in a short period of time the ruling is issued, whereas woe be it to the woman who has requested a divorce, for she must wait behind the doors of courtrooms for years and finally receive her divorce ruling from the judge after giving up her Islamic rights as well as her youth. And there are instances of men leaving their wives in a completely suspended way, neither a divorce nor the willingness to continue living, rather by putting pressure on the woman, they want to give up her rights. Unfortunately, there are no laws to protect such women and it is necessary that in our civil laws the necessary precautions be made to close the way to any sort of misuse of this legislative article.

She added: Fortunately, the head of the Judicial Branch has had a correct and positive view of the Islamic rights of women, and since his accession a spark of hope has been kindled in their hearts. Hence, he is expected to take action in regards to the implementation of Paragraph 3 of Article 21 of the Constitution, which concerns the creation of proper courts to protect and help the survival of the family.

In our courts, there has to be the opportunity for assisting and guiding women who have been turbulent victims of injustice and who are not informed about legal and civil laws and they should be implemented more strongly.

Ms. Salihi continued: Our laws must be devised in a way that women, during the time of indecision and especially after divorce, have a legal shelter and take refuge to Islam and Islamic government.

With the allocation of a budget to implement the law for the protection of women and children without guardians, which is a proud accomplishment of the Fourth Majles, the government must in practice give the necessary support to these individuals.

Then, referring to the Second Five-Year Plan, she pointed out: It is necessary that the Majles and the government, through careful and expert examination, find the weak points of the First Plan and, using the directives of the grand leader in this connection as a guide, ratify and implement the Second Plan. Even though the policy of economic modification will ultimately result in economic growth and prosperity, on the way to the desired stage, which depends on many factors and must always be taken into consideration, most important is better use of manpower in our country, which does not have the competitive power with advanced technology at the present time. Through strong and Islamic management and the use of new management methods maximum use must be made of the existing resources.

Ms. Salihi then referred to health and treatment issues of the country and said: Recently for the third time, the Health Department of the Province of Tehran was geographically combined with the College of Medicine. This will have no result but confusion, stoppage of work, and an increase in personnel.

In connection with the payment of large salaries to the directors of hospitals, which sometimes with payments from projects and special clinics reaches very high figures, can these figures be extended to all volunteer physicians or do they only apply to special groups?

She pointed out: While in Tehran there are three colleges of rehabilitation in the University of Rehabilitation Sciences, what is the reason for the Welfare Organization establishing a University of Rehabilitation Sciences, which has a very small faculty?

Is the duty of the Welfare Organization to disseminate health information in the form of advertising in high circulation newspapers?

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attack the stems of plants, a great deal of damage was inflicted on farmers, even though the timely presence of the officials, especially the deputy interior minister, for which we are grateful, can help with reports to the decision making authorities on the widespread damage.

The speaker continued: The victims expect at least two things: 1) The extension of the due date of their debts for at least one year, and 2) financial aid from the funds in Note 3 to be given to the villagers who have suffered losses, because most of them are unable to withstand the burden of new losses.

In conclusion, Nowbakht said: In any case, the implementation of essential projects, prevention of sea water advancement, and dredging of important rivers are among these essential steps which can prevent such national losses in the future.

Mohammad Reza Tavassoli, Deputy From Ferdows and Tabas

The next speaker was Tavassoli from Ferdows and Tabas, who offered condolences on the Mashhad tragedy and said: Our people know that these incidents are planned by the CIA, and the hypocrites are the tools of the global oppressors to inflict blows on Islam and Muslims.

In connection with the examination of the Second Plan he said: The Fourth Majles has the grave responsibility of examining and ratifying the Second Developmental Plan. The special economic and social conditions of Iran dictate that today we make the utmost use of the experiences of the First Plan such that all the resources are employed for maximum developmental results.

Tavassoli continued: During the years of the First Developmental Plan, the major problem of the regime has consistently been monetary, that is, uncontrollable cash flow. The volume of cash flow has always been higher than the [projections of the] plan so that the average growth of the volume of cash flow in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] and 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] was 22 percent as opposed to [the projected] 9.4 percent. In connection with the budget deficit, the projections of the plan indicate the relative success of the government in harnessing the budget.

Thus, in connection with taxes as one source for the budget, Tavassoli said: The problems of the tax system under the present conditions are cultural, legal, and implemental in nature. The ambiguity and complexity of the tax laws and insufficient capability to implement them are among the present problems of the tax system, which result in tax evasion and fraud with regard to determining [the tax rate]. As a result, there is more pressure on the lower classes in the collection of taxes, and people with high incomes escape taxes.

In connection with privatization, which could have been one of the courses to control the cash flow in the First Plan, the deputy from Ferdows and Tabas said: By selling its factories, the government could control the existing cash flow in the society; but, unfortunately, the buyers are government factories of the institutions affiliated with the government, which ultimately uses the government budget.

Pointing out that in Iran at the present time only 14 percent of the gross domestic product is in the hands of the private sector, he said: This figure in a country like Poland, which until two years ago had a totally communist economy, reaches 60 percent. These two figures shout out how unfortunate the actions of the related directors are in regards to privatization in this society, which has not had a negative history of ownership.

The speaker then added: The Auditing Organization estimates the total number of identified government companies up to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] as 2,221. One-third of these companies are in the Foundation for the Oppressed and the National Industries Organization. At the end of 1371, the added value of these companies was R27 billion. Considering that the present value of the property of the companies is more than R400,000 billion, this great value of the production resources could generate growth and prosperity in the country through economic production.

Pointing to the financial operations of these companies in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], when they only had R371 billion in profit, Tavassoli said: This means that for R400,000 billion in identified property, not even 1 percent operational profit was gained, and in the course of the First Plan, a significant percentage of foreign borrowing was carried out by the same companies. Most of them do not have the capacity to repay the financial loans, and in the Second Plan, petrochemistry alone has a ceiling of $2.2 billion repayment obligations.

The deputy from Ferdows and Tabas continued: We must confess that privatization has not been carried out, and if we continue on this course, it will take 1,830 years to do it, and all the stringent measures of the Majles in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget will be neutralized by the operations of these companies.

The speaker also said: The employment coefficient projected in the plan was 86.6 in 1372, which indicates the success of the government in creating new job opportunities in various sectors of the First Plan. But considering the repayments of the First Plan debts and the low price of oil, what course must we choose in the Second Plan?

In this connection, the speaker added: There are no more than two solutions: Foreign borrowing and nonoil exports. The only course that we can hope to follow with precise planning is nonoil exports. The export and import regulations must be reformed in such a way that they will respond to the needs of the Second Plan. In the course of the Second Plan, the government must transfer to people taxes that have a short return and may engage in fundamental services, public health, and long-term return projects.

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Seyyed Reza Noruzadeh, Deputy From Esfarayen

If there is no industrial independence in a country, it will be impossible to succeed in agriculture.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Nowruzadeh, deputy from Esfarayen. He condemned the hostile bombing of Imam Reza's (peace be upon him) sacred shrine by the hypocrites. He discussed the study of the Second Five-Year Plan and industrial investments. He said: If strategic and infrastructure investment do not take place in a country, there actually is no possibility of achieving self-sufficiency and cutting dependence. Praise God, in the last few years, with the president of the republic's development perspective, which in my view is unique, important projects have been begun and are being completed.

He added: Unfortunately the drop in the price of oil and the failure to obtain the anticipated resources on the one hand and the adoption of contradictory monetary and foreign exchange policies and the continuous changes in these policies by the officials in charge of financial and credit resources have caused the country to be faced at this sensitive time with the problems of fluctuating foreign exchange prices.

Analysts have provided various interpretations of this matter. Sometimes, instead of thinking and finding a logical solution, they produce diversions and sometimes they question giving priority to industry and agriculture in the nation's major infrastructure projects. In this same regard he added: In my view, these kinds of discussions are really unrealistic, because if there is no industrial independence in a country, it will be impossible to succeed in agriculture.

Continuing, Nowruzadeh said: To achieve an industrial capability, we must have sufficient growth in the areas of hardware, skilled manpower, software, technology, and management.

Continuing, he added: I believe the Majles must study the Second Five-Year Plan from the viewpoint of development and it must make every effort to complete semicomplete projects and to begin the projects that are called the missing links in industry. especially the conversion and agricultural industries.

Continuing, he discussed the planning ability of the nation's industrialists. He said: An example of that planning, manufacture, and installation is the equipment for converting the iron ore gondola for sponge iron, called the Qa'em project, at the Esfahan Iron Foundry, which is a great invention. That involved planning, manufacturing, and installing more than 2,000 tons of equipment in about 40 days. I consider it necessary to announce my thanks to the management and personnel at the Esfahan Iron Foundry.

Continuing, the deputy from Esfarayen added: At this time the vehicle manufacturing industry throughout the world is an assembly industry, in the sense that the vehicle factory buys most of its parts and assembles the final product itself at the factory. The more the parts for a vehicle are manufactured inside one country, the greater the added value. The manufacture and assembly of vehicle parts is undergoing rapid development and in the years to come the parts for a vehicle produced in one country will probably come from tens of countries.

On the other hand, we know about new vehicle production lines being started in developing countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, China, Turkey, and several other countries. Therefore the idea that the vehicle industry is only profitable for the industrial nations who have its technology is simply a mistake, unless we assume that all the developing countries that are increasing their investments in the vehicle industry are making a mistake.

The speaker noted that most of the parts for vehicles can be produced inside the country. He said: If we want to rely on domestic production capability we must remove the obstacles and prepare the labor environment. One of the problems of vehicle manufacturers was the issue of its legality. Praise God, with the recommendation of the Ministry of Heavy Industry and with the expert work that has been done, legislation was enacted by the Majles in Esfand 1371 [20 February-19 March 1993], and the Vehicle Law is a source of hope for managers in this industry.

He added: Domestic production means widespread employment and it means creating work among thousands of smali and large industrial units throughout the country. Therefore the domestic vehicle production being done by vehicle manufacturing factories is creating conditions for making the best use of the nation's hardware sector and for the development of the talents of Iranian industrialists.

At the end of his speech the speaker said: I call upon the officials in charge of the financial and credit resources to specify the status of the producing units and their management.

Ahmad Hakimi-Pur, Deputy From Zanjan

If the acts of lawmakers and the people conform to the law in that case a basic step will have been taken to achieve the government's goals.

The next speaker was Hakimi-Pur, deputy from Zanjan. During his speech he discussed the Five-Year Plan. He said: Economic and political development are complementary and are in reality two sides of the same coin. Therefore, if one of them is not done, it will be impossible to realize the other, or its realization will be incomplete. The history of the past century has abundant examples of this bitter experience, especially in the Third World nations.

He added: The special political conditions since the triumph of the revolution and the abuses of the freedoms that have been created by some professional political

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factions and groups have radicalized the nation's political atmosphere and have not permitted natural growth for the gains of the revolution.

For this reason, today, 15 years after the triumph of the revolution, our political system lacks the political bodies necessary to create a suitable civilized society and to strengthen the tie between the government and the people by acting as an intermediary.

To whatever extent the acts of lawmakers and the people conform to the law and if no one considers himself an exception above the law, in that case a basic step will have been taken to achieve the above goals. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic, as a sacred national pact, serves as a document of mutual commitment between the government and the people and nothing must be undermine it under any circumstances.

He emphasized: The effect of not implementing the Constitution in the nation's political and social system will be manifested as a deformity. Examples of articles in our Constitution that are being defectively implemented are Articles 26 and 46. Some of the bitter experiences early in the revolution and the bad effects of the conditions following the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] must not undermine Article 26, which authorizes political activities and the formation of political parties and societies in the framework of the Constitution. Today the lack of political bodies, which in the framework of the Constitution establish the legal and rational relationship between the government and the people, is severely felt. It is because of the lack of parties and real organizations that there is no concept of a minority and a majority in our Majles. This is precisely why I believe that without creating the necessary political foundation, planning for economic development will produce little or no result.

The deputy from Zanjan then noted: Along with sector development, there must also be regional development. The gaps that have been created between the nation's various regions in the areas of economics and culture, standard of living, and access to social and welfare services are such that in some cases it will be impossible or quite difficult to correct them.

He noted that the nation's general revenues belong to all the people. He said: Unfortunately this shortcoming is entirely evident in the First Five-Year Development Plan, and there is no proportion between the nation's various regions in their access to development credits in various areas. There is waste and dissipation in this regard. This shortcoming has also existed in the use of banking facilities.

Hakimi-Pur discussed the bill establishing the province of Qazvin. He said: The province of Zanjan is considered one of the nation's middle provinces in terms of its area and the size of its population. It is not correct to say that this bill is the national desire of the people of the region. Rather the people of Zanjan have declared their opposition to this by sending numerous petitions. The financial burden of establishing a new province in the country is no secret to anyone, and the experience of the province of Ardebil is a truthful witness to this. Likewise, in view of the repeated requests to establish new provinces and the fact that their numbers increase every day, the Ministry of the Interior must prepare a comprehensive plan to revise the national divisions, taking geographical, political and security criteria into account.

He said: Recently there have been numerous requests from students and some of the people for the establishment of a Turkish language and literature chair in the nation's universities, and the respected officials in the Ministry of Higher Education must give the necessary consideration to this lawful and rightful request.

Mohsen Kuhkan, Deputy From Lanjan and Mobarakeh

Privatization is not an aim in itself. Rather, it must serve to reach the sacred goals of the government of the Islamic Republic.

The next preagenda speaker was Kuhkan, deputy from Lanjan and Mobarakeh. During his speech he said: A nation's essential wealth is its manpower, and the Ministry of Education and Training has a crucial and key role to play in building this manpower. Inattention to the Ministry of Education and Training in the Second Five-Year Plan in comparing the bill's numbers and figures with measures enacted by the Planning Council in the Ministry of Education and Training clearly shows the collective views of the ministers and non-Ministry of Education and Training members. He added: I ask the Education and Training Commission and my esteemed colleagues that they confer special favor and attention on education and training while studying the Second Five-Year Plan Bill.

The speaker then added: Privatization is not an aim in itself. Rather, it must serve to reach the sacred goals of the government of the Islamic Republic. Transfers must be made to groups of people composed of specialists and manpower committed to the government who have invested for years in the government and to preserve the government.

Continuing, the speaker said: We must realize that the purchase of factories by some of today's bodies is not aimed at reaching the goals of the First and Second Five-Year Plans in the matter of privatization and this must be strenuously avoided.

Concerning inflation, Kuhkan added: What our people are suffering from is selling at high prices. While I wish success to the minister of commerce in measures taken recently, I emphasize continuation and use of strong executive guarantees for the careful and proper implementation of the project's subsequent stages.

The deputy from Lanjan and Mobarakeh then discussed the fact that the executive officials must act in their press

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conferences and discussions of their plans in such a way that there is not a particle of difference between their words and actions. He added: Acting on this important matter will strengthen their ties with the people. In this regard I will mention the announcement by some of the nation's banks of the payment of special loans to some individuals in the month of Bahman 1372 [21 January-19 February 1994].

The speaker then discussed the province of Esfahan. He said: Why must these noble people (of Esfahan) use the undesirable flour caused by the violations of a handful of people for a long time, because of the lack of careful supervision by the province's management? Why, in the province of Esfahan, in an administrative group with a population of about 55 people, have 36 individuals taken one to three agreements in principle while at the same time taking possession of valuable lands close to the center of the province, while at the same time, because of the guidance and investment in the conversion industries sector, most of the potatoes of the farmers of Faridun Shahri, the apples of the orchard keepers at Samirom and the milk from the dairy farms at Mobarakeh are rotting and spoiling? Shouldn't the managers in charge and above them the province management give an answer to this inattention?

Kuhkan added: Why shouldn't some of the forces who are religious and revolutionary, who were tested before and after the revolution, be used in province management? Why should the trend in province management in the last year or two and at present be at odds with the promise they made when appointed, and a continuation of the same practices of the past based on preserving rule by one faction and eliminating the forces from the opposing side, though they be capable and committed by any standard?

He continued: We must all realize that thanks to the sacred and value-based government of the Islamic Republic and with several years experience with the free atmosphere in the nation of today, although they have not faced the issue and discussed it, our people are not unaware of our factionalism and politics. In continuation, I remind the respected minister of the interior that what has been said bespeaks the reality that the province of Esfahan is worthy of stronger and more efficient management and demands that all religious and hezbollah forces be sought.

Continuing, the speaker said: During the president of the republic's trip in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and his emphasis on solving some of the problems of the people living in the vicinity of the region's factories, sometimes they took action to an extent, but some of the managers have so far paid no attention, and their names will definitely be mentioned in future speeches.

At the end of his speech, the deputy from Lanjan and Mobarakeh said: The minister of labor is to be criticized because instead of procuring minimal welfare and recreational resources for the workers in the Lanjan, Zarrinshahr and Mobarakeh regions, so far he has paid not the slightest attention to this, but he procures aid of 100 million rials in aid for a center under his ministry's mantle from the funds provided by Article 172 of the Taxation Law as resources for one of the region's factories.

Seyyed Ayatollah Musavi, Deputy From Kermanshah

The final preagenda speaker was Musavi, deputy from Kermanshah. In his speech he harshly condemned the reality of the bombing of Imam Reza's (peace be upon him) chaste shrine. He offered condolences on the martyrdom of a number of pilgrims, and he called upon the deputies and the government to make the last day of the month of Safar [8 August] an official holiday for public mourning of the martyrdom of the eighth imam.

He said a trip by the exalted leader and the president of the republic is the longstanding hope of the people of his electoral district. He said: I greatly regret announcing that as soon as the respected officials of the province of Kermanshah learned of the impending trip by the president of the republic, they decorated the streets on his route as was done in the time of the idolaters, and they even painted the power poles and clay houses along the route. Wouldn't it have been better if instead of doing these things they had taken real and infrastructure measures and steps to alleviate deprivation and create employment opportunities?

He added: What was the result of the Majles research and investigation with regard to the Province of Kermanshah, and why hasn't the Majles followed up?

In conclusion he noted: In conclusion I praise the minister of the interior and thank him for his good will and his sincere efforts.

Legislation

Deputy From Sanandaj's Credentials Approved

The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the credentials of 'Abdol-Karim Ahmadnezhad, deputy from Sanandaj, which were approved.

General Courts Law Amended

The second item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the study of amendments to articles from the Bill Forming General and Revolutionary Courts, returned from the respected Guardian Council, whose articles were approved.

Amendment to Article 18: The opinions of the general and revolution courts, whether they be sentences or rulings, will be overturned in the following cases:

The above article replaces the following article: "The opinions of the general and revolution courts in the

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aforementioned instances, whether they be sentences or rulings, will be subject to review in the following instances."

In Article 19: The phrase "the following opinions may be appealed" is substituted for "are subject to appeal."

The amended text of Article 19 is as follows: The following opinions may be appealed so that after investigation if the appellate authority finds an error in the verdict or that the court is not competent, he can overturn the opinion and retry the case.

The word "request" is added to Paragraph B, Article 19.

The amended text of Paragraph B, Article 19 is as follows:

The following verdicts may be appealed if the ruling has to do with the principle of a claim. Likewise, after the word "subject to" the word "appeal" is added in Paragraph B, Article 19, and it reads as follows:

"Verdicts issued at the appeal stage, except with regard to a demand verdict, are not subject to appeal."

Article B was also amended as follows:

If the request for an appeal is made during the allowed grace period, if there is corruption in the implementation of the verdict in penal matters, the implementation of the verdict will be halted until a decision is made by the appellate authority.

In Article 31 also after "subject to" the word "appeal" is added, and also before the second "appeal" the word "request" is added.

Article 31: The convicted party may request an appeal on the final verdicts of each court, which is subject to appeal within one month of the date of the verdict. The appeal is made to National General Prosecutor. The opinion of the court, except in the instances mentioned in Article 17, is not subject to protest or appeal.

Amendment to Attorney's Society Independence Bill

The next item on the agenda was the amendment to Article 8 of the Ministry of Justice Attorney's Society Independence Law Bill, enacted 12/5/1333 [2 February 1955], which was amended as follows: In Paragraph J, Article 1, after the world "Islamic" the phrase "with the completion of one full term as a deputy" was added and it now reads as follows:

After the completion of one full term as a deputy, deputies from the Islamic Consultative Majles who have a judicial license or a certificate of completion of high-level studies from Qom Seminary and five years work experiences in the courts. [sentence as published]

In Paragraph D, two units were also amended as follows:

All those who have a judicial law license or a certificate of completion of high-level studies from Qom Seminary or at least five years successive work experience or 10 years interrupted work experience in legal positions in government organizations and organizations affiliated with the government and government bodies and the armed forces, and after the implementation of this law, with 30 years of service, will be retired without regard to age, with the completion of one-half the established vocational training period.

Motion To Combat Drug Black Market

Another item on yesterday's agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Health and Welfare Commission concerning the amendment to Article 3 of the regulations pertaining to medical, pharmaceutical, food and beverage affairs. Dr. Nejabat, the expert on the relevant commission, said in explanation: One of the problems with drugs is the black market and the famous market on Naser Khosrow Street. Of the drugs on the Naser Khosrow smuggler's market, 99 percent are procured at domestic centers.

Then the government's representative discussed the fact that despite the efforts of the judiciary, this law is useful and he described the lack of it as a legal gap. Then a vote was taken and the general form was approved.

Means for Staff Women With Nursing Infants

The Motion To Append Note 6 to Article 49 of the National Employment Law was another item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session. The expert from the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission discussed this motion. He said: This article pertains to staff women with nursing infants who want to nurse their children. This law provides means for staff women who have nursing infants. They may nurse their infants for one half-hour every three hours. Opponents to this motion objected because of the drop in labor productivity and the financial burden. After talks by opponents and supporters, the general form was put to a vote and rejected.

10 Jul

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Dr. Rowhani and the deputies from the cities of Khash, Dasht-e Azadegan, Takestan, the Armenian religious minority in the northern part of the country, and Bu'in Zahra and Avej were preagenda speakers. Dr. Rowhani discussed the crimes of the hypocrites, the end of the war in Yemen, the three Iranian Islands and the death of the leader of North Korea, and then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of you respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

Deputy Majles Speaker's Remarks

In a speech at yesterday's open Majles session, Dr. Hasan Rowhani discussed the crimes of the hypocrite minigroup in the country. He said: During the first phase, the

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hypocrites sought to create a crisis inside the country. According to the documents and evidence that have been obtained, in the second phase they sought to create a crisis in the Islamic Republic of Iran's international relations. Their goal was to bring about religious conflict and clashes inside the country and on the other hand to undermine the image of the government in public opinion and to sabotage Iran's relations with important European nations. In the bombing of the shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him) and also in their decision to bomb the Sunni mosque in Zahedan, they sought to create a rift and a dispute between the Shiites and their Sunni brothers in this country. With the assassination of the two priests of the religious minority, they sought to create disunion and disagreement between between the religious and sectarian minorities and the Muslim people of Iran.

He then said: According to the documents and evidence obtained from the hypocrite minigroups, the assassination of the priests and the plan to assassinate several other priest officials in Tehran were for the purpose of undermining the government's image internationally. With their plans to bomb airline and commercial offices in several European nations and one far Asian country, they were seeking to create a crisis in our country's relations with other countries.

Continuing, the deputy speaker of the Majles said: We thank the intelligence forces, the police, the basij and the revolution guards, all of whom took part and in their around-the-clock efforts of the last few weeks succeeded in locating several team houses and obtaining much documentation and evidence. We also thank the border agents, who captured one of the leaders in this regard as he was leaving the country. That individual was arrested, and with his arrest many of these plots were discovered. If these plots had not been discovered by the sincere forces and if the documents and evidence of the plots had not been given to us, it is actually possible that the hypocrites would have succeeded in reaching their goals.

Dr. Rowhani also added: Today the world is on the threshold of a great historic test. We must see how they will deal with terrorism, a terrorism that respects none of the sacred religious and sectarian objects in a society and that will commit any filthy act to achieve its evil goals. Today Iran's religious minorities, along with the Muslim people of this land, expect an appropriate reaction to these crimes from the West. Of course, we expect nothing from the Western governments, governments that support the actions of these minigroups in the language of action. However, we expect prominent and free scholars, educators, and religious leaders throughout the world to give the necessary and appropriate reaction to these crimes. We call upon the world's free leaders, religious authorities, priests and foreign news correspondents to go to Iran and see for themselves the documents and the evidence and also to speak with the arrested individuals in order to clarify the filthy essence of these minigroups and those who support them and to show the world the oppression of the people of Iran and its government.

He then offered condolences for the two Christian priests assassinated by the hypocrites to their families and Christian compatriots, and he condemned the silence of the Western media, as well as the silence of the international organizations and those who claim to support human rights.

The deputy speaker of the Majles then discussed the 6+2 sessions in Kuwait. He said: These statements are quite surprising for us. Every time these people get together they repeat illogical things that are without basis or foundation concerning the three Iranian islands. For anyone who has the slightest historical, political and legal understanding, it is clear that these three islands have been owned by Iran throughout history, and except for one period, meaning the 70-80 years when these islands were occupied by the English. They were also always ruled by Iran. During that period Iran told the world that this occupation was clear oppression and aggression. After the English left that area, Iranian forces immediately went onto these islands. What effect will repeating these baseless statements have for these sheikhdoms? I would think the two experiences the region has had in recent years would be an adequate lesson.

The nations of the region witnessed the experience of Iraq's baseless claim concerning Ervandrud and the experience of Iraq's baseless claim on Kuwait. They saw what happened as the result of these baseless claims, and the fruits of these claims were thousands of billions of dollars in damages and tens of thousands of dead and wounded. These very sheikhdoms who are sitting together spent something on the order of $300 billion during these two wars. I would think these experiences would be enough for them.

We declare to them once again, the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks the principle of neighborliness and friendship with all its neighbors in the region. As the most powerful nation in the region, our nation has always been and is a friend to the nations of this region, and their true enemies, who are friends of oil wells, are not lasting friends because the lifetime of oil wells is short. We will defend our three islands as we defend the center of the country, and we will not permit anyone to look upon the sacred land and the Islamic country with greed.

He then expressed his happiness with the return of security and peace to Yemen and expressed the hope that the nations of the region and the Islamic nations of today will help and make efforts for the reconstruction of Yemen.

At the end of his speech, Dr. Hasan Rowhani offered condolences on the death of Kim Yong-sam, the leader of North Korea, who was a combative anti-American figure and a sincere friend of our country.

Akhtar Mohammad Kahrazehi, Deputy From Khash

Society's deprived classes should receive most of the subsidies, and special attention must be given to distributing development projects to the deprived areas.

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The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Kahrazehi, deputy from Khash. During his speech he offered condolences on the martyrdom of a number of visitors to the shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him) in the tragedy of the bombing by the hypocrites. With reference to the Imam's political and divine will concerning the evil hypocrites, he said: Since the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution, criminal America has not desisted for a moment from its hostility towards the revolution, including its economic embargo, its military attack against Tabas and the passenger aircraft, the bombing, and recently it has naively set out to divide the Shi'ite and Sunni brothers.

He added: From the House of the Nation I declare that the Shiite and Sunni brothers in Islamic Iran under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i are brothers and equal, and they are a united hand against the world's atheist and infidel minigroups, led by criminal America.

Continuing, the speaker discussed American aggression and the crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia and the slaughter and dispersion of the Muslims in Kashmir, Algeria, and Palestine. He said: In the face of all these crimes the United Nations and American human rights organizations have sealed their lips with silence. Once again, with complete shamelessness, they are claiming that human rights are not being observed in Iran. Continuing, the deputy from Khash added: I call upon free people with awakened consciences to come to our country and look into this matter, and not to listen to the lies of the American lackey Galindo Pohl.

Continuing, he said: It is incumbent upon the government and the Majles to work together to alleviate the problems of the people and to pay full attention to the creation of employment, rural roads, education and training, higher education and health care and treatment. The deprived classes of society must receive most of the subsidies and more attention must be given to the distribution of development projects to the deprived areas.

Continuing, the speaker asked the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to take decisive steps to fight selling at high prices, to control the foreign exchange rate and to employ youth. To fight the cultural invasion, they must educate the people with the culture of Islam so they will avoid the vulgar culture.

The deputy from Khash then discussed the problems in his electoral district with regard to education and training, rural roads, health care and treatment, the lack of sports facilities and the lack of employment. He said: In all areas, the deprived people of the municipality of Khash need special favor from the exalted leader and the government.

At the end of his speech Kahrazehi asked the minister of the construction jihad to take steps with regard to management in the villages of Gowharparvar and the district of Mirjaveh and other districts. He asked the minister of education and training to take steps to start around-the-clock elementary and secondary schools in the municipality of Khash and to alleviate the shortage of classroom space. He asked Besharati, chief of the Deprived Areas Office, to provide electrical power to the village of Milgan and others. He asked the minister of agriculture to procure the needed tractors and to grant interest-free loans, and he asked the minister of the interior to investigate and aid in solving the problem of unemployment and starting a small border market at Mirjaveh.

Jasem Jaderi, Deputy From Dasht-e Azadegan

The weekly publication OMID is trying to foment ethnic discord and to damage national unity.

The next speaker was Jaderi, deputy from Dasht-e Azadegan. In his speech he discussed the critical responsibility of the Fourth Majles to study the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: Iran's special economic and social conditions, the gains under the First Five-Year Plan, the outlook for the future and the serious requirement to guide resources in the best way have brought serious responsibility to the Fourth Majles at this point in history.

The Majles must take a profound and comprehensive look at some of the goals and policies in the Second Five-Year Plan Bill, and it must compile the Second Five-Year Plan with a careful evaluation of the achievements of the First Five-Year Plan.

He added: Unfortunately some of the goals and policies in the government's bill do not take the government's interests into account and are based purely on factional and economic perspectives. For example, economic pricing is based on the final real cost to organizations, without providing any mechanism to protect the vulnerable classes. The expedited transfer of government companies to the nongovernment sector is purely for the purpose of obtaining cash and will lead to undesirable economic consequences in society. Under the First Five-Year Plan price increases in the government services sector were followed by increases in the rates and prices for other goods in other sectors and created a kind of pricing free-for-all, so that the government, contrary to its announced policies, was required to announce a policy of price controls, although it has not yet had success in this regard.

He discussed the transfer of the shares of government companies to free the government from encumbrances. He said: Although these measures are generally valid, the performance of those in charge of transferring the government factories shows a kind of creeping and secret activity aimed at weakening the rule of Islam and the values of the revolution. Strengthening the capitalists and transferring the economy to the hands of those who have no kind of belief in the principles of the revolution may in the future present a threat to the revolution and its values.

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He explained: We must realize that most of those who today are spreading moral corruption and irresponsibility in society and most of those today who are somehow trying to weaken Islamic and revolutionary values are individuals who in some way have great economic resources and investments. These kinds of people must not be allowed to obtain great national investments because of the improper, unknowing and perhaps knowing actions of the experts on the transfer of factories.

Jaderi explained that in the Second Five-Year Plan attention must be given to the province of Khuzestan. He said: Unfortunately, despite great government investments in the province, most of the people in the region are weak in terms of their financial foundation. Most of the contractors on the great and national projects not only are not important, but they also bring with them from other cities the manpower working on these projects.

He continued: At a time when government officials are calling for unity among the various classes, are noting the need for public awareness of evil imperialist plots and consider the only solution at the present time to be opposition to the new tricks by the hypocrites, unfortunately the weekly publication OMID is working in step with the blind-hearted hypocrites to sow ethnic discord and damage national unity. By publishing insulting caricatures, it has tried to sow discord and incite ethnic feelings, and with this naive and inauspicious idea it is trying to open a breach in the ranks of our nation.

The deputy from Dasht-e Azadegan then added: Of course, the plotters on the weekly publication OMID are revealing their counterrevolutionary essence with these plots, and they must realize that they will carry to their graves their hope of sowing discord among the revolutionary people of Iran.

In conclusion he called upon the minister of energy to help start the Dasht-e Azadegan irrigation project, he asked the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council to order the forces stationed on the Martyr Bakeri Road to act on the measures approved by the Supreme National Security Council.

Rajab Rahmani, Deputy From Takestan

The new province of Qazvin will be a barrier to emigration to Tehran.

The next speaker was Rahmani, deputy from Takestan. During his speech he discussed the presentation of the bill to make Qazvin a province. He said: I ask all the deputies to vote in favor of this bill so a basic step will be taken in the interest of the country and the region and more than 1 million committed and revolutionary people will achieve their legitimate demands.

He added: It is clear that while Qazvin will absorb the overflow of Tehran's population, in the not-too-distant future it will be a barrier to rural emigration to Tehran.

Continuing, the deputy from Takestan said: In his trips in Tir 1371 [22 June-22 July 1992] and Mehr 1372 [23 September-22 October 1993], the president of the republic saw for himself the region's merits and potential talents, and he saw the extent of desire on the part of the public and the officials for the region to become a province.

He noted that the Council of Ministers unanimously considers it a necessity for Qazvin to become a province and has presented the relevant bill to the Majles. He said: The Plan and Budget Commission and the Councils Commissions have held numerous meetings, attended by experts from the Ministry of the Interior, Mr. Besharati himself and deputies from the region and the province, in which the bill was given careful and comprehensive study. With their decisive vote for the bill they have removed any kind of doubt or concern. On the one hand members of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission visited Qazvin, Takestan and Zanjan for several days and met directly with the people, giving attention to the general public demand, and they confirmed the necessity for the area to become a province.

Rahmani discussed the favorable views of the people, the officials and the deputies from the region and the sending of several petitions several meters long. He said: The municipality of Takestan, because of its special agricultural, industrial and geographic positions and its potential talents, will be the first municipality in this new province among the 11 existing and six proposed cities, and in all its cultural, economic, budgetary, development and university aspects, it will be considered the first municipality.

Continuing, he added: I thank and praise the noble and religious people of Zanjan, the deputies, the governor-general, Ayatollah Musavi Zanjani, representative from the Assembly of Experts, for their most appropriate and good approach in meetings with the president of the republic, the speaker of the Majles and the members of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission. All the provinces and municipalities in the Islamic homeland will be members of one body in the sacred Islamic system and will follow the vice regent and the exalted leader.

Continuing, the speaker discussed the problems and difficulties in his electoral district. He said: I ask the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Agriculture to pay reparations for hail damage to farmers and I ask the Economic Council to establish suitable base prices for raisins based on existing costs.

At the end of his speech Rahmani asked the deputy minister of energy to follow up on extending canals from Qazvin to Takestan, and he asked the minister of roads to study the problems at accident-prone points.

Vartan Vartanian, Deputy From the Armenian Minority in the Northern Part of the Country

The next speaker was Vartanian, deputy from the Armenian minority in the northern part of the country. During

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his speech he said: Since the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution the religious minorities, along with the rest of the peoples of the noble nation of Iran, have spared no sacrifice of any kind in their desire to reach the exalted goals of the Islamic revolution. In the eight-year imposed war they made bloody sacrifices and presented many martyrs along with their Muslim brothers and fellow combatants in epic defense of legitimate rights, independence, and the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in repulsing enemy aggression.

Continuing, he added: At this important time economic reconstruction and development must be done with the same unity and solidarity in all areas, with involvement by the other peoples of the nation, and world imperialism and their agents will not be permitted to undermine the unity and solidarity of the people of Iran.

The deputy from the northern Armenians said: The wound of the terrifying crimes in Mashhad still weighs heavily on our hearts, where the hypocrite terrorists martyred the Christian clergymen, believing foolishly that they can try to undermine the unshakable unity of the noble nation of Iran, especially the Muslims and the religious minorities. While offering our condolences and sympathies to the families of the martyred clergymen, we deputies from the religious minorities in the Majles expect those who claim to defend human rights to condemn the crimes of the hypocrites, these blind-hearted terrorists.

At the end of his speech, Vartanian said: We are certain that the nation of Iran, with the full awareness and the praiseworthy spirit of brotherhood that prevails over all the peoples, including the Muslims and the religious minorities, and which arises from the late Imam's unifying message and from the exalted leader, will thwart all the plots. Under the wise guidance of the exalted leader and at the capable hands of the president of the republic, it will achieve new and luminous successes on the path of the nation's progress and development.

Majid Naderi, Deputy From Bu'in Zahra and Avej

Won't the presentation of some reports and incorrect statistics in the deceptive guise of concern by people with no distinction who have been ejected from every organization create ambiguity with regard to the structure of the Majles?

Naderi was was the final preagenda speaker. During his speech he said: The Islamic revolution has achieved victory with the motivation of advancing the country, uplifting the luminous commands of Islam and eliminating discrimination, oppression and corruption in Islamic Iran. It was presented to the people of the world in the first phase in the political dimension of neither East nor West, in the state of not being influenced by any power and with the presentation of an independent policy based on humane principles and values.

He added: Today the world has understood that Iran will not back away from its principles. In the second phase we achieved valuable successes in the economic and industrial dimension, praise God, with the president of the republic's indescribable awareness, care and courage and with the cooperation of the government.

He said that guiding the country in the direction of self-sufficiency arose from infrastructure investments. He said: Everyone must try to make the government's strengths stronger and to turn its weaknesses into strengths. The presentation of some reports and incorrect statistics in the deceptive guise of concern by people with no distinction who have been ejected from every organization will create ambiguity with regard to the structure of the Majles. It is entirely unfortunate that despite the exalted leader's emphatic order to support Mr. Hashemi's government, incorrect reports are being submitted, the successful individuals in the Council of Ministers are being questioned, and the specialists are being discouraged. Is this the meaning of supporting Mr. Hashemi? I remind you that today creating anxiety among the people is an unforgivable sin and a great crime against the aspirations of the world's deprived and free peoples.

Why don't we believe that despite all the pressure and the economic embargos, our country has done this great amount of real and proper work and planning to strengthen the nation's economic foundation and self-sufficiency, and that the country has also achieved significant successes?

He emphasized: Our managers have made every effort to carry out the order from the leader of the revolution to get away from a one-product economy, to get into international markets and to produce a variety of products, so that not only would we achieve the desired production in the various sectors but so that we would also have exports and make acceptable gains in international markets. Would it be correct to say that in the production of steel and in investment in that sector we have not only failed to succeed but have also suffered astonishing losses?

Our deputies know that our steel production in the First Five-Year Plan increased from 1 million tons per year to 5 million tons. Do the gentlemen think a country should be considered successful that until yesterday imported iron by the shipload and today exports it by the shipload, so that steel exports are the nation's number-two nonoil export? Why don't we tell the people that under the First Five-Year Plan the Ministry of Mines and Metals had $1.4 billion in exports? Why don't we tell them that gold production, which was not part of the First Five-Year Plan, reached 550 kg in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]? In the growth and development of our nation's specialists, why don't we say that $180 in foreign exchange must be invested to produce a ton of steel, and that without the help of foreigners this figure has been reduced to $80? Why don't we explain that the

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conversion of rock coal to fuel oil in a high-temperature furnace, which was done through the innovations of iron foundry specialists, saves $16 million in foreign exchange per year?

In conclusion he announced the defense by the people in his electoral district for Qazvin becoming a province.

Legislation

Bill Adding Iran to the Islamic Conference Organization Investment Guarantees Agreement

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the Bill Adding the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Islamic Conference Organization Agreement To Increase Support and Guarantee Investments Among the Member Nations (returned from the Guardian Council). The commission's amendment was approved by the Guardian Council.

It is worth mentioning: In Article 18 of the agreement, because the phrase "compromise and submission to arbitration is subject to Majles approval" was considered a violation of Article 139 of the Constitution, the commission amendment reads "submission to arbitration where the decision issued is not in conflict with the nation's laws and regulations and Iran's general system."

Bill on Index of Revolutionary Organizations

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Revolutionary Groups Commission concerning the Bill on the Index of Nongovernment Public Organizations and Institutions (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the commission's amendment was approved by the deputies.

Amendment: "Implementation of the law with respect to public institutions and organizations under the chief jurisconsult's supervision will be done with His Excellency's permission."

Appending 3 Notes to Article 808 of the National Employment Law

The report from the first consultation of the Administrative Commission concerning the rejection of the Motion To Append Three Notes to Article 808 of the National Employment Law Enacted 31 Khordad 1345 [21 June 1965] was the next item on the agenda, the general form of which was not approved and was rejected.

The reasons for rejecting the motion, which was presented by the Administrative Affairs Commission expert, are as follows:

1 - Article 1 has an enormous financial burden and violates Article 75 of the Constitution.

2 - If Note 1 were approved it is possible that retired women would draw their retirement wages for a time and they would have no money in the fund, and in this case it would be impossible to implement the provisions of the aforementioned note.

3 - If those eligible for Note 1 marry after receiving their retirement deductions, the obligatory service pension for their deceased husband would be cut off, and if such an employee were divorced, she would be unable to draw either her former husband's obligatory service pension or her own (because she would have collected her retirement deductions).

4 - If there are other heirs (other than immediate family), with the implementation of Note 1 the obligatory service pension for the other heirs, including the children, would be less, and that would hurt them.

5 - During their lifetimes, both would be able to draw their retirement pensions.

It is worth mentioning that Article 1 of the motion states: Retired women who draw the obligatory service pensions of their deceased husbands may receive a refund of all the funds they paid into the retirement fund during their entire period of service if they permanently waive receiving the retirement pension. This will be paid in installments whose maximum size is the amount of the retirement pension.

Very Urgent Motion To Extend Customs and Commercial Profits Tariffs on Imported Goods

The fourth item on the agenda was the request to extend customs and commercial profits tariffs on imported goods, which was presented as a very urgent motion. In this regard Engineer Bahonar explained: Near the end of the month of Ordibehesht this year [21 April-21 May 1994], the Majles approved customs and commercial profits tariffs on imported goods, which filled a gap in the law. That legislation emphasized that the period for implementing these tariffs would be six months. Since that period expired on 15 Tir [6 July], the government now has no tariff that it can apply. Therefore we ask that this tariff be extended to the end of this year [20 March 1995] so that during this period the Majles can work better on tariffs and commercial profits and enact something good with expert work.

After talks by opponents and supporters, the very urgent status of the motion was put to a vote and approved.

Very Urgent Status of the Bill on Procedures for Transferring Shares and Selling Government Factories to Those Who Have Sacrificed

The next item on the agenda was the Bill on Procedures for Transferring Shares and Selling Government Factories and Companies to Workers and Those Who Have Sacrificed, which was presented as a very urgent motion.

Astaneh gave a talk concerning this motion. He said: In view of the policy adopted in the First and Second Five-Year Plans concerning the transfer of government companies and factories to the private sector, and

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because the process of privatization is proceeding rapidly and most of the factories with a good return and a profit are being sold every day, we must therefore provide means for these dear ones based on the exalted leader's commands for priorities in the Second Five-Year Plan.

He then said: If this motion is presented in the ordinary way, a large number of these factories and companies will be sold in the shortest time possible and there will no opportunity for these individuals to participate.

After talks by opponents and supporters, the motion's very urgent status was put to a vote and approved.

Motion To Legalize Gifts to Foreign Guests

The final item on the agenda was the Motion on Procedures for Giving Gifts to Foreign Guests, which was presented as an urgent motion. Concerning this, Zare'i-Qanavati said: Since the giving of gifts to foreign guests has no legal basis in our country, and its allocation is the responsibility of the officials in charge, when they give gifts to Iranian guests, those gifts do not have high material value and they even say that the law does not allow them to give more. We therefore want to legalize these gifts, limit their value to 15,000 tumans and require that they be from the nation's handicrafts.

He then said: The issue is expenditures from the public treasury which were previously unlawful, and we want to legalize them.

After talks by opponents and supporters, the motion's urgent status was put to a vote and was not approved and was rejected.

12 Jul

94LA0221A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Dr. Rowhani, and the deputies from the cities of Kangavar and Varamin were preagenda speakers. Then Dr. Rowhani gave a speech studying and criticizing the statement issued by the G-7 leaders at Naples. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

Deputy Speaker's Remarks

At yesterday's open Majles session the deputy speaker criticized the recent positions taken by the world's seven industrial nations with regard to Iran and the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sunday evening at the end of their three-day meeting in Naples, Italy, the leaders of the world's seven industrial nations issued a statement calling on the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with the establishment of peace and stability in the world and to change its behavior with regard to the matter of terrorism.

Dr. Hasan Rowhani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran always works to resolve conflict, clashes and bloodshed throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. The people of the world have seen these efforts in recent years.

As examples of these efforts he cited the efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the conflicts in Afghanistan, Karabakh, Tajikistan, Kordestan and Iraq. He said: In some of the crises, the diplomatic efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran were made at a time when none of the Western governments and international organizations had the courage to intervene. These efforts were made despite great danger to end the bloodshed.

The deputy speaker of the Majles added: In our view, the usurping and illegitimate presence of foreign forces in the world's sensitive and crisis areas, such as the Persian Gulf region, is the most important factor threatening the peace and security in these regions.

The secretary of the Supreme National Security Council named the Zionist regime as a great aggressor and the main party to disruption of the peace and security in the region. He said: The countries participating in the Naples meetings disrupt the peace and security in various regions of the world by sending destructive weapons to aggressor nations.

Dr. Rowhani added: To establish real peace and security in the world, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made constructive proposals, one of the most important of which is to end the presence of foreign forces in the Middle East and to eliminate atomic, chemical and biological weapons in the various parts of the worlds.

He discussed the charges made against Iran with regard to terrorism in the statement by the G-7. He said: These countries have always given asylum to terrorists and have supported terrorism in their words and actions. How can they falsely accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran of terrorist behavior?

Mr. Rowhani named England and America as the primary architects of these charges. He said: The Major government, which is unable to provide security for its citizens inside its country and was defeated by its rivals in the recent elections for the European parliament, in raising these kinds of issues is trying somehow to transfer its domestic problems abroad.

He discussed the recent hypocrite terrorist activities inside Iran with the support of some Western nations. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the biggest victim of terrorism. In recent weeks not even the sacred public shrines have been spared these activities.

The deputy speaker of the Majles cited as a positive point one of the paragraphs in the G-7 statement, which calls upon various nations to prohibit terrorist groups in their countries. He said: The G-7 nations are now faced with a great test. One must see whether or not these

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countries will stick to their statement and will expel the terrorist groups from their countries.

Elsewhere in his talk Dr. Rowhani discussed the decisions by the G-7 with regard to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said: In their concluding statement the world's industrial nations validated the decision by the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the allocation of a large part of that country to the aggressor Serbs, and this is in reality a reward for the aggressors.

He cited the coercion of the Muslims to accept the Geneva convention with regard to Bosnia and Hercegovina as a green light for continued Serbian aggression. He said: Since the beginning of the crisis in Bosnia it has been clear that the Western nations are opposed to the establishment of a Muslim government in Europe. For this reason they were not able to pass this great test.

Soleymani, Deputy From Kangavar

This formula that the present generation will accept 100 percent of the problems in hopes of ease and welfare for the next generation is not a just formulation.

The first preagenda speaker was Soleymani, deputy from Kangavar. In his speech he harshly condemned the recent actions by the hypocrites. He said: It is expected that the world organizations and the human rights organizations will react to the crimes at the shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him), which led to the weakening of the religious beliefs of some 1 billion Muslims. These recent desperate activities bespeak evil and criminal plots, which demand more than ever revolutionary awareness on the part of the Islamic nation and the religious and sectarian leaders and thinkers.

He added: The enemy intends to use its hypocritical and villainous agents to divert religious emotions away from the fight against world infidelity and to get the religious people quarreling among themselves. The Shiite and Sunni brothers know that the exalted leader of the revolution is one of the most prominent Shiite scholars. In the years before the triumph of the Islamic revolution he translated the book by the late Seyyed Qotb into Persian by his own eloquent hand and submitted it for publication.

He explained: It is certain that the world community of the House of God, Shiite and Sunni alike, will not pass easily over this tragedy. They believe that this activity will completely cut off the life blood of the instigators and the hypocrites, and will have no result other than deepening Islam's essential hostility to America.

He then discussed the compilation of the Second Five-Year Plan and its study in the Majles. He said: The experience of the First Five-Year Plan is now something you and I have had, and mystery of its weaknesses is now solved. It can be a light of wisdom and guidance for the future. If in reality it retains factional and party connections, its outcome will be nothing more than the imposition of unbearable burdens on the shoulders of the noble and deprived hezbollah people. As was said, it is necessary to use the blessing of the successes of the Islamic revolution in various domestic and foreign areas to prevent the emergence of the destructive spirit of despair and pessimism. It is also an emphatic necessity to deal carefully with weaknesses, mistakes and errors to prevent collapse into the abyss of misgivings and naivete. Of course, to issue memos about planning defects is not the same as wounding and weakening officials, but unfortunately in some cases it is seen that instead of criticism and evaluation of programs, insults are leveled at officials.

It is hoped that that the struggles will get beyond personal clashes, which sometimes lead to reviewing the childhood histories of individuals, and that it will proceed at the level of struggle, criticism, and scholarly and reasoned opinions about programs and procedures. Of course it is proven that the nation's first executive officer and the officials with him are approved by the exalted leader and that they have luminous records of political activity and struggle.

Mohammad Qomi, Deputy From Varamin

In view of the population growth in Tehran, unfortunately some of the agricultural water in Varamin is being used as drinking water for the people of Tehran.

The final preagenda speaker was the deputy from Varamin. In his speech he said: On 16 Khordad [6 June] the martyr-nurturing people of 15 Khordad [5 June] saw in their midst the president of the republic, the long-time companion of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) and a companion of the exalted leader. The people of the municipality of Varamin proved their loyalty to Islam and the Islamic revolution before and after the revolution with the blood of our great martyrs at Baqerabad, and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution they demonstrated this during the eight years of the sacred defense.

He thanked the people of his electoral district for their unprecedented welcome for the president of the republic. He said: In their actions the people of Varamin have shown that they are friends of the revolution, and that they are working without expectations to elevate and extend the Islamic revolution. They all thank God that the blood of the martyrs of 15 Khordad has borne fruit and that today the government of the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult rules in this country. Our people are working and striving in the shadow of Islam, the Koran and the revolution.

He then discussed the compilation of the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: The municipality of Varamin is near Tehran, and its agricultural crops are very suitable for the market. In Varamin we have about 130,000 hectares of prime land, and in view of the population growth in Tehran, unfortunately some of the agricultural water in this municipality is being used as drinking water for the people of Tehran. Naturally, extra efforts must be made to solve this problem.

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He added: Fortunately the president of the republic saw the situation for himself during this trip and he emphasized the construction of a dam to the north of Varamin. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the financial problems of the above project will be solved in the annual budget.

He added: The First Five-Year Plan was much greater in scope than the nation's resources and realities. One of the main slogans of the First Five-Year Plan was controlling currency in circulation and guiding public and national investment into production and basic tasks. Unfortunately, not only was the growth in currency in circulation not stopped, but it is also growing like a cancer and is causing inflation to increase. The nation's policy must not be such that it brings about the import of caravans of luxurious and ostentatious goods. Instead of promoting the culture of labor and appropriate order, in adherence to the guidance from the leader of the revolution, some of the organizations affiliated with the government and the oppressed people are fanning the flames of worldliness and ostentation.

Soleymani noted that on the one hand there is talk of manpower adjustment and on the other hand incompetent companies are spreading. He said: The leader of the revolution and the Islamic nation will certainly be disgusted with the abuses of the essential idea of self-sufficiency. What procedure is this that some of the organizations have adopted for affiliated companies? They have become agents for capitalist leeches, and with their unsound activities they have entered the carnival market for foreign exchange and inflation.

Continuing, the speaker said: In planning and striving to reach the goals of the Second Five-Year Plan, let us act in balance and harmony with the nation's real assets, possessions, and resources. The precipitous activity of the present does not allow for participation by the hezbollah classes. This activity not only leans on the abilities of the prosperous classes and capitalists, it will also necessarily take with it those who have financial resources.

He discussed the fact that achieving the goals in the Five-Year Plan using the procedures used in the First Five-Year Plan will put increased pressure on the deprived classes. He said: What is the problem if the executive mechanism and the procedures for work are designed in such a way that the current generation will bear a smaller percentage of its deprivation? This formula that the present generation will accept 100 percent of the problems in hopes of ease and welfare for the next generation is not a just formulation. He continued: With the direction we have taken in the Five-Year Plan, we have not found the appropriate place and importance for valuing education and training. The expressions were of a general nature and included sermonizing and moralistic points.

13 Jul

94LA0222A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday in open session chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Firuzabad and Malayer were preagenda speakers. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a speech in which he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of Imam Mohammad Baqer (peace be upon him). Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Khoda Karim Jalali, Deputy From Firuzabad

In the bill presented by the government, the agricultural sector has a very weak position.

The first preagenda speaker was Jalali, deputy from Firuzabad. In his speech he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of Imam Mohammad Baqer (peace be upon him) and said: The Islamic nation of Iran, in the glow of the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, has found its path to joy and glory, and it regards its identity and being as being dependent on defense of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution. Among the valuable and proud characteristics of this orthodoxy are hostility to oppression and fighting world imperialism led by America and world Zionism. In this regard, no kind of plotting will have the slightest detrimental effect.

He then discussed the latest crimes by the hypocrites in bombing the pure shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him). He said: This is not unexpected for people who were trained by the world Zionists and criminals such as Saddam. These crimes have completely uncovered their evil face.

Continuing, the speaker discussed the Second Five-Year Plan in the Majles. He said: To select a focal point or a priority, attention definitely must be given to regulations and criteria such as adherence to the exalted leader's policies, social justice, economic independence, reducing dependence on oil, return on investment, the nation's potential talents and capabilities and unused capacities. It is clear that in the production and economic sectors the agricultural sector has such characteristics, and by focusing on this sector we will be able to reach the goals mentioned.

Jalali added: The GDP and the added value created by the various economic sectors shows their place in the nation's economic development. The growth in GDP at prices for the year 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] compared to the year 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] was roughly 18 percent, yet the growth in added value in the agricultural sector at the fixed price was 55 percent. That is to say that the imposed war and the economic embargo had the least effect on the agricultural sector.

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The deputy from Firuzabad said: For every 1 million rials [R] in added value at fixed prices in the industry and mines sector in the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], more than $5,998 was imported in raw materials and intermediate goods, but in the agricultural sector for every R1 million in added value at fixed prices $97.4 was imported in raw materials and imported goods. That is to say that the agricultural sector has the minimum dependence on foreign exchange.

He then discussed the share of the agricultural sector's production, which was 36.1 percent of total oil exports [as published] and was twice the figure provided in the First Five-Year Plan. He added: Above all these indicators is the guidance from the late Imam, who considered agricultural self-sufficiency to be the beginning of independence in economic and other areas.

Continuing, the speaker said: Since GATT will lead to serious problems for Third World nations and nations importing food, whether they are members or not, we have no choice but to focus on the agricultural sector in the Second Five-Year Plan. Unfortunately, in the bill presented by the government, this sector has a very weak position. He added: In the First Five-Year Plan the agricultural sector's share in total economic development credits was 22.2 percent. In the plan's first scenario this figure was 7.6 percent, and the share of development credits in the agricultural sector compared to the nation's total development credits in the First Five-Year Plan was 11.6 percent. In the first scenario of the Second Five-Year Plan the agricultural sector's share decreased to 4.5 percent.

Jalali emphasized fighting selling at high prices. He said: It appears that the general goals set in the Second Five-Year Plan to take from consumers the finished cost of producing monopoly and government goods and services such as water, electricity, fuel and other things until the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, will not be achievable this quickly, and that this is in conflict with some of the plan's other goals, such as controlling inflation and protecting the oppressed.

The deputy from Firuzabad discussed the earthquake in Firuzabad and Mimand. He said: About 8,000 housing units were more than 80 percent destroyed, and 2,500 units were also 30 to 80 percent destroyed. It did about R20 billion in damage to public, government, and agricultural institutions. We must thank and praise for their efforts the Red Crescent, the Ministry of the Interior, the Unexpected Disasters Staff, the governor-general's office and other officials.

At the end of his speech, the speaker called on the Unexpected Disasters Staff and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation to make serious efforts to rebuild public and government installations and buildings such as schools, water delivery systems, electrical power installations, and housing before winter.

Seyyed Kazem Mirvalad, Deputy From Malayer

The people of the cities and rural areas of the province of Hamadan came to welcome with enthusiasm, eagerness, and sensitivity a person whom they recognize as the manifestation of the government.

The second and final preagenda speaker was Mirvalad, deputy from Malayer. During his speech he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of Imam Baqer (peace be upon him). He said: In the last few days the province of Hamadan was host to the president of the republic and in reality this was two-way hospitality by the people, and the event was inspiring, emotional and beautiful.

By invitation of the deputies from the province of Hamadan and the province's executive officials, the speaker of the Majles spent several days in this province with the people and the officials, and I consider it necessary to offer him my own thanks, as well as that of the deputies and people from the region.

He discussed the relationship between the people and the speaker of the Majles. He said: We saw that in all the province's cities and rural areas, the people came to welcome with enthusiasm, eagerness and sensitivity a person whom they recognize as the manifestation of the government. In all the cities we saw people waiting for hours to welcome the Imam's companion and friend.

The speaker also discussed the sincere relationship between the speaker of the Majles and the people. He explained: This two-way relationship makes us offer profound gratitude to God, that we should know the power with which the people are able to analyze the nation's problems and the power with which they are able to determine what is essential and secondary in the revolution.

The meetings with students, clergy, and other classes in the cities actually deepened this sincere relationship between the people and the officials.

He added: Thank God, the province of Hamadan has very high unity and harmony between the executive officials, the clergy, the Friday imams, the Majles deputies and the judicial apparatus, and the powerful presence of the speaker of the Majles in this province deepened this sincere relationship.

Legislation

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the details of the very urgent motion on the procedure for transferring government shares and shares belonging to the government to workers and those who have sacrificed, of which four more articles were approved by the Majles.

Article 2: Those who have sacrificed, the former combatants and the basijis may benefit from the provisions of this law through membership in cooperative companies or corporations.

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A: The above cooperative companies will benefit from the provisions of this law if at least 80 percent of their capital belongs to those who have sacrificed, the former combatants and the basijis, and if at least 65 percent of the investment belonging to those who have sacrificed, the former combatants and the basijis has been divided equally among the majority of those who have sacrificed, the former combatants and the basijis.

J: The organizations mentioned in this law may make use of its benefits only one time.

Note: The real persons mentioned in this law have the right to be members of only one cooperative company or corporation which is making use of the benefits of this law.

Article 3: The sale of the shares eligible for transfer to general applicants to buy, with the exception of those who have sacrificed, will be done as follows:

A: At least 40 percent of the price of the transaction must be paid in cash and in this case the balance of the price must be paid in installments within a maximum period of three years.

B: If 50 percent of the price of the transaction is paid in cash, the balance may be paid in installments over a period of five years.

Article 4: If 10 percent of the price of the transaction for the companies and cooperatives of those who have sacrificed as described in Article 2 of this law is paid in cash, the balance may be paid in installments over a period of five years.

Note 1: If more than one company owned by those who have sacrificed wants to buy these kinds of shares, and if the two companies owned by those who have sacrificed are equal, priority will go to the company that has the most people who have sacrificed.

Note 2: Real persons and legal entities who benefit from the provisions of this article will not have the right for five years after the date of the transaction to transfer the shares to individuals or companies who have not sacrificed as mentioned in this law.

Article 5: The sale of shares to be transferred from government companies and factories and those belonging to the government to real persons and legal entities will be done exclusively on the stock market and through competitive bidding.

Note: The transfer of shares via negotiations is authorized only for transfers to the companies and cooperatives owned by those who have sacrificed.

Continued consideration of the other articles in this bill was postponed to the next session. The next Majles session will be on 2 Mordad [24 July].

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